

{MLA Name}  
{MLA Address}

Re: COVID-19 and the role of the building supply industry

Dear {MLA Name},

The Western Retail Lumber Association and its 1,200 member firms in the building supply industry extend into every community across the country contributing to the very fabric of Canada. The industry plays a vital role in our communities, from providing jobs to over 262,000 Canadians to producing and supplying materials that are vital to the construction sector and essential to all Canadians.

In many communities, the local hardware or building supply store represents the only outlet where consumers have access to necessary supplies for cleaning, disinfecting, maintaining and repairing their residences. The industry has provided essential supplies and support in past emergency situations, such as storms, floods and fires, and we are ready to step up and continue to support our communities during this time.

Businesses in the building supply industry have taken the necessary steps to implement specific COVID-19 protocols as published by the various health authorities to ensure that they can continue to supply necessary materials and services, while keeping their staff and communities safe.

**We want to ensure that we can be here to continue to operate in the best interests of our local and national economy. We urgently call on the Government of Canada to deem locally owned building materials and supply stores as “essential” and allow these businesses to stay open as a public service.**

We support the Canadian Construction Association of Canada’s recommendation that it is in the best interest of Canadians and our economy to ensure construction continues.

This is a challenging time for all Canadians, businesses and community leaders. We thank you for your service and leadership through this difficult time, and the industry is ready to support the Government of Canada as it manages the COVID-19 crisis.

I invite you to contact me directly when considering any government policies that may impact the construction sector and its supply chain.

Respectfully,

{Name and business information}