



To all Board Members, Council Leaders and Union Representatives

I have been in contact with Governor DeWine expressing my concerns of any statewide closure of construction sites and how much any widespread layoffs would affect our industry.

The governor expressed his sincere thanks to the 100,000 men and women from the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades for whom he has the utmost respect. Governor DeWine knows they do not have the luxury of working from home and they continue to go to work every day to keep this state moving forward.

He reiterated that at this time there are not any plans for statewide closures of construction sites, but as everyone knows, this crisis is moving very fast and things change hourly. He encouraged anyone who is affected by COVID-19 to reach out to the numerous state agencies including the unemployment bureau for help and/or guidance with any issues.

Most importantly, he stressed to our members the need to be vigilant on social distancing as well as personal hygiene in an effort to keep this pandemic in check and flatten the curve.

I conveyed to the governor that our local building trades councils and trade unions are working within their communities to be part of the solution by following the guidelines set forth by the state as well as by being flexible and innovative on the jobsites to keep everyone safe. Our longstanding model of interacting with our contractors and owners brings commonsense solutions to keeping our jobsites safe, all the while avoiding any mass layoffs.

I also reinforced that these same building trades councils and local trade unions are standing by, if needed, in the event of a local or statewide crisis to pitch in like we always do with help for our communities across our state.

We are all in this together and we will get thru this crisis together, we just need to keep the lines of communication open and be flexible and ready to respond if needed.

We are the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades and our solidarity is our greatest strength!

Mike Knisley
Executive Secretary – Treasurer
Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council