



April 7, 2020

The Honorable Kim Reynolds  
Iowa State Capitol  
1007 East Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds,

As the COVID-19 health crisis continues, your leadership in protecting the health and well-being of Iowa citizens, while maintaining essential services and activities throughout the state, is greatly appreciated.

Your letter of March 21, 2020 to Iowa County Auditors, Recorders and Treasurers has been helpful to our member Abstractors that provide a critical service to the real estate industry. As you stated in your letter:

*Iowans, financial institutions, realtors and abstractors rely on county offices to file and record documents as the official records. And without these offices operating in some manner, Iowa Title Guaranty will not be able to provide title coverage to Iowa consumers and lenders. I'm writing to strongly encourage you to ensure your offices and the full range of vital services you provide are open and accessible to Iowans. Failure to do so could have a damaging impact on Iowa's long term economy.*

During the days and weeks ahead, as new information on the health crisis evolves and if a shelter in place/safer at home or some other executive order is enacted to restrict the activities of Iowan's to protect their health and safety, the ILTA respectfully requests that **Abstracting/Abstractors are deemed Essential Services and Essential Employees**. When you formulate your list of essential services/employees, this designation will help to ensure that Abstractors continue to have access to the county records and will be protected from any potential action by law enforcement.

Members of the ILTA continue to work with their county officials to access the records necessary to provide the services critical to the Iowa real estate industry. The majority of members are successful in working with those officials, while some challenges remain. Each county office operates independently and under varying degrees of restrictions. The ILTA will continue to work with its members and Iowa Title Guaranty to identify and try to resolve issues at the county level.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to hearing from you, and may be reached via the information provided below, or by contacting ILTA Lobbyist Mike St. Clair at [mike@capitolegde.com](mailto:mike@capitolegde.com) or 515-778-7631 (cell).

Sincerely,

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