



March 20, 2020

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

Dear Governor Reynolds,

Iowa's housing and commercial real estate markets are being affected by the global health crisis. The Iowa County offices, including the Recorders, Auditors, Treasurers and Clerks of District Court, help to provide essential services to the real estate industry. The citizens of Iowa, financial institutions and realtors rely on county offices to file and record documents as the official records. The public and these title professionals rely on the abstractors and title examiners to provide title evidence and opinions of title. The Iowa Land Title Association has received reports this week from its member abstractors that County Recorder offices across the state are operating with varying degrees of restrictions, including limited access or, in some cases, no access.

We are requesting your help to ensure that Iowan's will have their real estate transactions continue without interruption during this crisis. We recommend that the necessary executive action be taken by the Governor's Office to require County Recorders, Auditors and Treasurers offices across the state to maintain at least minimal hours of operation and provide access to their local abstractors. We understand that the offices may limit the number of persons it will allow access to the records, or make other provisions such as requiring hand sanitation, social distancing and other measures. If limiting the hours of operation is not an option, we request that the offices provide a pick up box to ensure transactions may be made without physical contact.

Our hearts go out to those that have been affected by the COVID-19 virus, and the safety and health of all Iowan's is our priority. We appreciate your leadership as we all navigate this personal and economic crisis, and work to keep businesses in operation.

We are available to assist you and we have provided our contact information below.

Thank you.

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