March 31, 2020

Massachusetts Building Trades Council Votes Unanimously to Call for a Statewide Suspension of All Regular Activity Construction Sites in the State

On March 31, the executive board of the 75,000 member Massachusetts Building Trades Council voted unanimously to call on Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker to declare a statewide suspension of all regular activity at construction sites in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts April 3 through April 30.

The vote was unanimous among the statewide council, including among Local unions representing workers from the Berkshires to Cape Cod. The council is advocating that the only work the government should permit to move forward should be emergency and certain essential work.

That emergency and essential work includes the following:

- Emergency utility, road or building work, such as gas leaks, water leaks and sinkholes.
- New utility connections to occupied buildings.
- Mandated building or utility work.
- Work at public health facilities, healthcare facilities, shelters, including temporary shelters and other facilities that support vulnerable populations.
- Work that ensures the reliability of the transportation network.
- Other work necessary to render occupied residential buildings fully habitable.

Additional emergency/essential construction projects may be added on a case-by-case basis after joint review and approval by state and local officials.