(Date)

Hon. (Name of provincial MPP),

MPP (Name of Riding),

(Riding Office Address)

RE: Infrastructure Construction and Economic Recovery

Dear INSERT NAME HERE,

We are an infrastructure construction contractor with head offices in your riding. Many of our employees also live and work in the riding.

This letter is to ask for your support and assistance to ensure that we can keep working in the near to mid-term and to continue to provide work for our employees. It arises from the fact that municipalities in Ontario are slashing their capital budgets in response the fiscal shortfalls created by the COVID-19 pandemic. While we typically work through to December each year, the reduction in municipal infrastructure tendering has already reached the level where we will be looking at mass layoffs in our sector beginning in October. Further, there are clear indications that municipalities will be sacrificing their capital programs for the next couple of years if not longer as they struggle to maintain operating budgets.

Recognizing that construction is a major driver of the national economy, at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in March infrastructure construction was declared an essential service in Ontario and we were asked to maintain operations while most of the rest of the economy shut down and workers stayed home. Infrastructure contractors like ourselves went to extraordinary lengths, and expense, to meet the challenge and throughout we have found ways to work safely and keep the industry going at full speed. We are very disappointed that now that we have gone to these lengths to do our part in keeping the economy going through the darkest times, governments appear to be willing to divert funds from capital budgets and watch the infrastructure contracting sector collapse due to lack of work.

It is in the best interest of Ontario’s economy for the provincial and municipal governments maintain capital budgets for infrastructure construction. Relying on the construction sector to play a leading role in economic recovery is a time-tested and proven strategy and one that should be embraced as fundamental to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Province wins in the short-term from the economic stimulus created by thousands of well-paid construction tradespeople as well as the multiple effect in terms of the economic activity generated throughout a broad a diverse materials and services supply chain. At the same time, infrastructure construction is creating tangible new public assets that will support further economic development and growth in the longer term.

Our appeal to you and the government is to support and promote: (1) Provision to municipalities of sufficient relief funding to ensure that they can maintain infrastructure capital budgets; (2) Expediting the delivery of the relief funding to the municipalities; and, (3) Making funding contingent on municipalities maintaining their capital budgets for infrastructure construction.

On the point of the importance to expedite funding, the municipal budgeting process requires them to have confirmation of funding from federal and provincial transfers by mid-December at the latest or they will have to budget with shortfalls of income and will reduce their capital budgets accordingly. Should Ontario municipalities not have some indication of support and actual funding from the provincial government by the end of this year, it is clear to us that not only will we be laying off our workforces early this year, but most of them will not be called back in 2021.

Thank you for your attention and support in this crucial manner.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE/COMPANY