

Dear Valued NUCA Member:

Since we last got together in February at our 2020 Convention in Tucson, our world has changed. The coronavirus pandemic that has swept the world and into our nation has also forced all of us to adapt our businesses and organizations to an unwanted economic crisis.

NUCA has been at the forefront of providing information for our members on this crisis. Having the right information leads to prioritizing your workforce needs. You need information on finding financial support on emergency business loans, and how NUCA chapters are keeping state governors informed of the fact that our nation's utility infrastructure is an extremely vital and "essential business." We are sharing official information from U.S. government resources in public health and OSHA safety recommendations, and a wealth of other information that you need to know about to keep your business intact and ready for our nation's economic recovery.

NUCA is sharing this information through a variety of channels. Start with the easiest place to look: NUCA's website. If you haven't already visited it, fire up your browser and go to www.nuca.com/panflu. Through this central webpage, we have provided links to USDOL and OSHA resources on workplace safety, news coverage of how this emergency is impacting the construction industry, third-party information resources analyzing labor, employment, and contract laws, human resources and insurance insights, and select articles on topics such as force majeure contract clauses, supply interruptions, OSHA reporting, and much more.

Your company is a valuable part of your area's infrastructure. Remember to also turn to your local NUCA Chapters for information and resources, too. They can provide information on local economic stimulus programs, and be an invaluable resource for local news and programs.

In March, NUCA was lobbying Congress, as well as every national business association in Washington including the U.S. Chamber of Congress, for relief and help for our nation's businesses and their employees. And Congress listened, passing in the last week of March a massive \$2 trillion package assisting American businesses towards economic recovery. The package includes more than \$377 billion in aid to small businesses, including loans that would be forgiven if used to cover payroll and rent during the pandemic. The measure also includes a four-month expansion of unemployment benefits that also covers workers furloughed because of the coronavirus emergency.

If you are a reader of *Utility Contractor* and not a NUCA member, you should maximize your efforts to help out your business in this difficult time and join us. NUCA can help your business in ways you haven't even thought of. Membership makes us all stronger.

Stay safe, and stay healthy.



DOUG CARLSON
NUCA Chief Executive Officer