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*Professionals Providing  
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## **Seattle Chapter**

March 20, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

First, I want to thank you for your leadership, and that of your entire team during this trying time for our State.

I am writing you both as President of the Seattle Chapter, Appraisal Institute, on behalf of our more than 400 professional appraiser chapter members, and I am also writing you as a state citizen and a licensed Washington State Real Estate Appraiser (Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, License No. 1100565).

Given the new reality that we are currently living with, if some form of “shelter in place” or “limited/no travel” order is enacted, I would like to respectfully request that professionals completing real property appraisal services be given latitude to still be able to perform certain portions of our jobs that require some level of travel. Appraisal assignments typically include driving to a property to inspect it, which can often be completed from the exterior only, as well as driving to take exterior photographs of comparable sale and/or rental properties utilized in our reports as part of determining market value. The remainder of appraisers’ duties can generally be completed from a desk, and many appraisers have remote computer access, which allows them to do many of their tasks from their homes.

During this period of uncertainty, critical societal business needs must continue to function as normally as possible. Banking and credit markets are a critical business. Appraisals are a vital component of the banking and credit process. Appraisers must be allowed to continue their support of this critical function. Keeping the credit markets functioning is vital.

Based on what I have been hearing from individuals in different sectors of the real estate profession, real estate appraisal services are in high demand right now, not only from lending institutions, but also other organizations, including State agencies in need of appraisal services. Refinancing activity is still occurring, which may become even more prevalent with recent decreases to key interest rates. If appraisers are unable to carry out the limited components of their work that require driving (but that can also be completed safely and in many instances with limited contact with others), it would not only hurt our profession and our members, but would also negatively impact the ability of lending institutions and other clients to continue to do their work.



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All real estate appraisers in the state are dependent on being able to complete appraisal assignments to keep producing income to support their respective families and businesses. In this time of fiscal uncertainty, I believe that allowing appraisers to be able to safely perform those limited duties that need to be completed outside of the home/office in a safe and conscientious manner would help a large part of the economy moving ahead as we look toward getting out of our current situation.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue, and all my best to you and your entire staff throughout the state who are working to keep all of us citizens in Washington State safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Stan Sidor, MAI, AI-GRS, CRE  
President, Seattle Chapter, Appraisal Institute

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District 25 Legislators

Sen. Zeiger, Hans  
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Rep. Gildon, Chris