

President
Michael C. Savas, CTIP



Executive Vice President & CEO
Leslie Midgley, CAE

March 22, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Texas Land Title Association (TLTA) applauds your leadership during this unprecedented time. We appreciate the countless hours of hard work and sacrifice you and your staff are devoting on behalf of the people of Texas.

We respectfully request that you please make clear in any announcement, press release, emergency declaration or other related communications with the public that title insurance businesses remain open alongside the banks and other financial institutions so previously scheduled along with future real estate transactions can continue to occur as needed. Providing this much needed clarity for our industry and consumers in any statement or proclamation would be greatly appreciated.

It is imperative to the real estate sector that title insurance offices remain open alongside the banks. Furthermore, our industry's work—including conducting title searches, examinations, closings and issuing title insurance to protect property owners and mortgage lenders—is crucial to financial sector operations. *To date, every state which has expanded restrictions has included title insurance and real estate settlement as essential business functions.*

We will quickly underscore for you that Texas allows Remote Online Notarization (RON), which creates a safe and consistent approach whereby an online notary can electronically sign documents. This tool equips us to better restrict the face-to-face requirements of real estate transactions. Our industry members are also implementing several protocols at their business locations to maximize the safety of the community.

Additionally, we would like to emphasize the importance of county operations in sustaining of the real estate economy. We applaud the County Clerks of Texas who are working hard to keep recording real estate transactions and the Texas real estate economy alive.

Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael C. Savas', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael C. Savas, CTIP
President