**[LOGOS]**

**[DATE]**

**[ADDRESS TO GOVERNOR AND INCLUDE OR CC SECRETARY OF STATE AS APPROPRIATE]**

RE: Expanded Consumer Protections and Legal Certainty for Remote Appearance for Notarization During COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Governor **[INSERT NAME]**,

First, we would like to thank you for your leadership during this difficult time as we all face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic together. We appreciate the hard work of you and your staff during these very difficult and uncertain times.

As we now look to the future and reopening our economy, there will continue to be a need for social distancing, especially for those at most risk from COVID-19. In light of that, the undersigned associations urge you to **[continue your support of the use of remote appearance for notarizations, and to ensure these temporary measures protect consumers and provide legal certainty.]**

Notarizations are used to authenticate many types of documents, including those in real estate transactions. In addition to transferring property, many homeowners in today’s market are looking to refinance or access equity from their home. Using audio-visual technology, these transactions, which are so vital for consumers and our economy, can be touchless.

Given how vital notarizations are to our economy and various transactions, over half of the nation’s governors have issues orders allowing for remote appearance for notarizations during the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures have been greatly appreciated by our associations and have helped protect both consumers and professionals working in our industries.

To create uniformity and ensure adequate consumer protections and anti-fraud measures, the American Land Title Association (ALTA), the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) and the National Association of Realtors (NAR) partnered to draft the attached language for states to use for authorization of remote appearance for notarizations, which is based on nationally accepted best practices for implementing remote notarizations. We believe this model order as drafted would provide safeguards for consumers in **[STATE]**, as well as provide additional legal certainty for notarizations conducted under these emergency provisions.

To that end, we respectfully request that the attached model language be adopted in **[STATE], [and replace the existing emergency issued on …DATE...]**.

The undersigned associations appreciate your consideration of this request and are available to answer any questions you or your staff might have. **[Additionally, our organizations would welcome a future opportunity to discuss a more long-term approach to meeting borrower and real estate industry notarization needs. Many states have enacted permanent remote notarization laws and there is non-partisan model legislation available from the Uniform Law Commission.]**

**[INSERT NAMES OF TRADE ASSOCIATIONS]**