

## Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2018

President Donald J. Trump The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to direct your attention to the announced shutdown of General Motor's automotive manufacturing facilities in Lordstown, Ohio, Detroit, Hamtramck, Brownstown and Warren, Michigan, and Baltimore, MD and the dire situation facing thousands of workers.

Respectfully, we invite you to join us to visit the Lordstown Assembly, Warren Transmission, Brownstown Battery, Baltimore Operations and Detroit-Hamtramck plants, to meet the workers who will soon receive pink slips. This idling will impact over 14,000 workers, including the layoff of 3,300 production workers in the United States and 2,500 in Canada, and another 8,000 salaried employees.

We urge your Administration's intervention in every manner possible to seek both short and long term remedies for these workers, the auto-part supplies that will also be impacted, and the communities sure to be severely impacted by these job losses. The involvement of your economic team to meet with company and labor representatives of GM, the United Auto Workers, impacted auto part suppliers, and local and state officials – in Washington, D.C. or in Michigan, Ohio and Maryland – could assist in an alternative pathway forward.

For every factory worker on an automobile or light-truck assembly line, ten additional jobs are created or supported in the economy, eight for auto manufacturing jobs beyond the assembly line. Imagine what this means for the economic impact of these communities where the GM manufacturing plants are its heart and soul. GM's decision is yet another blow to the psyche of these automotive communities. Given the future uncertainty of these facilities, Southeast Michigan, Northern Ohio and Maryland will likely soon feel the economic repercussions as workers cut back on holiday and nonessential spending in preparation for potential layoffs.

Equally as devastating are trade and tax policy decisions which have undermined the Midwest's once thriving auto manufacturing industry. With the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement and ongoing trade negotiations with China, we must set expectations to open

closed markets for U.S. automotive exports, equalize the negative impact of the value-added tax, and rebalance deals to stop corporations who outsource American jobs to low-wage nations. Further, we must readdress America's tax policy to stop favoring outsourcing.

Carmakers have seen record profits for the last eight years. But we need to ensure workers are sharing in these profits and we must all work together to ensure auto manufacturing in this country stays on the cutting edge of innovation and technology. We are in a competition with the rest of the world and the U.S. must lead this industry once again, but we cannot leave communities and their workforces behind.

Our communities need deliverance on your promises to invest in and restore America's manufacturing might and to put an end to the outsourcing of American jobs. We will work with you and your Administration to reinvest and modernize American auto manufacturing. Thank you for review of this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Marcy Kaptur

Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell

Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty

Member of Congress

Andy Levin

Member of Congress-Elect