Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We write to request consideration of provisions to support jobs and economic stabilization of the motor vehicle industry in future COVID-19 pandemic legislative proposals. Nearly 10 million jobs, representing 5 percent of private American employment, are driven by this sector. As you well know, fourteen automakers build cars and light trucks in America. The motor vehicle industry depends on a complex network of thousands of companies supplying parts, components and materials, to giant production platforms, employing thousands of workers, as well as a vast retail and vehicle maintenance network of dealers. The auto sector has such an expansive reach to every state, delivering economic benefits, creating jobs in so many different sectors in every Congressional district, and leading America into a new era of innovation in clean energy and mobility solutions. In many communities, production plants are the spine of the local economy.

Through this global pandemic, the importance of domestic manufacturing has reemerged broadly. As the Congressional Auto Caucus has highlighted for years, there is little denying the need to reexamine and adjust supply chains and focus efforts to strengthen our manufacturing base.

The automotive manufacturing base and resulting industry has been hit hard by the economic stress of the COVID-19 crisis. Represented by manufacturers, suppliers, dealers, and many auto affiliated businesses, the automotive industry employs roughly 10 million American workers. Annually it drives more than $953 billion into the economy through the sales, servicing of autos, and paychecks for workers throughout the sector, as well as income for auto-related small business, and government revenues. Historically, the vehicle industry has contributed 3-3.5 percent of America’s total gross domestic product and 5.1 percent of private-sector employment. America’s motor vehicle industry must remain the heart of our nation’s manufacturing capability.

The projected economic fallout for the industry is grave. Manufacturers moved swiftly to fill the desperate call for additional personal protective equipment and ventilators where they could. But sales are projected to drop as much as 30 percent for the year, from over 17 million cars sold in 2019. April was the worst month in decades for car sales. Rental car companies struggle on the brink of closing forever. Many businesses in the industry face a cash crunch even as they prepare to ramp back up. Liquidity is challenging, particularly for suppliers, and it will be necessary to support demand for some time to ensure a meaningful recovery. In some regards,
challenges the industry face exceed those of the 2008 financial meltdown. As workers begin to be called back during the COVID-19 pandemic, serious challenges confront the protocols under which this must be organized to assure worker safety. Significant organizational costs will attend to this process.

We look forward to working with you to craft a prudent response. Given the enormity of the industry’s economic footprint throughout our nation and its significant legacy, we seek your assurance that an appropriate response will be included so that American workers in the automotive industry can help drive a robust recovery.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress  
Fred Upton  
Member of Congress  
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress  
Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress  
Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress  
Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress  
Haley Stevens  
Member of Congress  
Van Taylor  
Member of Congress  
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress  
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr  
Member of Congress  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress  
Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress  
Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress  
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress  
Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress  
Denver Riggleman  
Member of Congress  
Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress  
Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress
Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Jim Banks
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Martha Roby
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
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Mike Rogers
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James R. Baird
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress