



Join. Engage. Advance.

## Original Equipment Suppliers Association

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

Thank you for your leadership and tireless commitment to protecting the citizens of Michigan during the COVID-19 pandemic. Collectively, members of the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)<sup>1</sup> employ more than 125,000 Michiganders. We understand the public health issues facing Michigan and we have been proud to assist in the industry's response through the manufacture of personal protective equipment (PPE) and components and parts for ventilators and other essential medical devices.

Through the Original Equipment Suppliers Association, MEMA has worked directly with automakers to develop recommended Health and Safety Resources for all suppliers. These resources are based on CDC guidance and World Health Organization publications and cover fundamental topics of workplace safety: education and communication, prescreening of personnel, social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing protocols, and other necessary steps. The industry continues to work relentlessly to plan for the return of our workforce and the safe opening of facilities throughout the state.

Ultimately, the future of our workers, our industry, and our state depends on the industry's collective ability to ramp up vehicle and parts production in a safe and effective manner. As you know, vehicle manufacturers throughout the country and the world depend on parts and components manufactured in Michigan. Because of this integration, Michigan suppliers are a vital link to the industry's economic recovery.

We understand that the re-opening of the industry will come in stages, allowing companies to safely bring employees back to work in controlled environments, while meeting the ramp-up needs of the industry. These stages will occur slowly and deliberately and will allow for implementation of the appropriate safety protocols. However, in order to provide components and parts to vehicle manufacturers, suppliers need to re-start at least five days before OEM production. We would like to work with you toward that end.

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<sup>1</sup>The Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA) is the leading trade association representing vehicle suppliers that manufacture and remanufacture components and systems for use in passenger cars and heavy trucks, including original equipment to new vehicles as well as aftermarket parts to service, maintain and repair more than 281 million vehicles on the road today. MEMA represents its membership companies through four divisions: Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA), Heavy Duty Manufacturers Association (HDMA), Motor & Equipment Remanufacturers Association (MERA), and the Original Equipment Suppliers Association (OESA), two of which are headquartered in Southfield, Michigan.

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The Michigan supplier community is ready to re-start and we are committed to working with your Administration to build public confidence in our ability to safely reopen our places of business. We are proud of our commitment to the health and safety of our workforce. As we look to the future, delays in re-opening facilities would increase liquidity risk for suppliers and jeopardize long-term capital investment and employment for Michigan. It is critical we collaborate to ensure a strong economic recovery for the state and the industry.

We ask you to provide clear authority for automotive suppliers to restart their operations in Michigan at least five days before OEM production begins. We welcome the opportunity to demonstrate to you and the entire state that suppliers are ready to restart manufacturing in a safe and careful manner befitting our long history and strong commitment to the future. We need your continued leadership and partnership to help make that possible.

Sincerely,

Bill Long  
President and CEO  
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association

Julie Fream  
President and CEO  
Original Equipment Suppliers Association

- cc: M. Burton, CEO, MEDC
- J. Huls, Chief of Staff
- J. Rising, Cabinet Secretary
- A. Wilson, MEMA

The following Michigan-based companies support this letter:

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