



One Woodward Avenue • Suite 1900 • Detroit, Michigan • 48226

July 16, 2020

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor, State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

On behalf of Michigan's automotive industry, thank you for your continued leadership as our state and nation move forward in perseverance of the COVID-19 pandemic. We share your priorities of keeping Michigan's residents safe while balancing the need to maintain a responsible level of social and economic activity.

The automotive industry is also concerned about the recent rise in confirmed cases. MICHauto is actively encouraging our membership to take the "Keep Businesses Open – #MaskUpMichigan" pledge in order to promote public health and ensure our economy can continue to stay open for business.

As you evaluate your options, I encourage you to consider the record of the automotive industry in keeping our associates and workplaces safe. Anecdotal information seems to suggest that the greater risk of virus spread comes from social gatherings where people let their guard down, discarding social distancing and mask guidelines, as opposed to structured manufacturing environments. I am pleased to report that no major COVID incidents have been tied to any Michigan automotive manufacturing facility. The industry also recognizes that more can be done to encourage proper adherence to health protocols when our employees are "off the clock."

I know you fully realize the importance of the automotive supply chain to Michigan's economy, and I hope you recognize how this industry has taken these matters seriously and the extensive and thorough precautions that have been taken at these manufacturing sites. The safety measures implemented by our automotive plants have proven successful and have served as best practice models for other industries across the state.

You face an unprecedented challenge as Michigan's leader during this time. While no one knows how long this will last, Michigan's ultimate recovery will likely rely on the strength of its largest industry. On behalf of Michigan's automotive leaders, I urge you to resist the closure of our manufacturing facilities and allow these demonstrated safety protocols to continue working to keep our businesses open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glenn Stevens", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Glenn Stevens

Executive Director, MICHauto