



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

March 24, 2021

Mr. Sean Egan
Deputy Director
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
105 W. Allegan St
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Mr. Egan:

It has been more than a year since COVID-19 fundamentally altered the way our society and business operated. There has been immense progress in distributing vaccines, developing safety protocols for in-person work, and mitigating the virus's spread. As the state approaches the April 15 expiration of the current MIOSHA restrictions on in-person office work, I applaud the Governor's proactive step in convening the Return-to-Office Workgroup to review how to best proceed as a state.

As the leading voice for the state's automotive industry, MICHauto has been working closely with members to understand these companies and employees' needs. As captured in the included addendum, the overwhelming consensus is that businesses need to be able to work collaboratively in the office.

Remote work will still be an important component of automotive business operations, to provide the flexibility employees demand and to protect public health. However, the automotive industry requires constant innovation, and it functions best when design, engineering, and program management are done together in person.

The industry is at a critical transformation point, and the competition from global players and new industry entrants has not subsided during the pandemic. American and Michigan-based auto/mobility interests cannot risk falling behind at this critical juncture. Failure to accelerate our creativity and innovation now will have irreversible negative consequences for Michigan's economy. I strongly encourage you and the Return-to-Office Workgroup to develop guidelines and recommendations for Governor Whitmer that allow employees to return to the office safely.



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MICHauto and the automotive industry led the safe reopening of manufacturing in Michigan and set the global benchmark for a safe startup. Now is the time to enable the automotive industry to safely and responsibly open offices across our state. I appreciate the opportunity to provide the perspective of the industry and remain available as this process continues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn R. Stevens".

Glenn R. Stevens, Executive Director, MICHauto;
Vice President, Automotive and Mobility Initiatives,
Detroit Regional Chamber