

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2020

Mary Barra  
Chairman and CEO  
General Motors Company  
P.O. BOX 33170  
Detroit, MI 48232-5170

Dear Chairman Barra:

We write to urge you to reopen your plant in White Marsh, Maryland to produce much-needed ventilators for hospitals.

On April 8, you received a contract to build 30,000 ventilators under the Defense Production Act.<sup>1</sup> Maryland had over 13,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of April 20.<sup>2</sup> As numbers continue to rise across the state and region, reopening the White Marsh plant will put high-skilled workers back to work and ensure that ventilators are available and easily accessible in an area with multiple hotspots.

Instituting the highest health and safety standards is fundamental to protect workers who are putting themselves at risk to help our nation respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. As General Motors (GM) begins to produce ventilators, it is essential to protect the health and safety of workers and prevent the transmission of COVID-19. To ensure that safety, we urge you to include your workers in the development of workplace health and safety protocols, as they are the ones directly impacted by these policies.

Until its closure, the White Marsh plant employed hundreds of workers producing highly complex machinery from electric motors to transmissions. The federal government's recent contract with GM provides you with an opportunity to utilize these workers' skills. We are also urging President Trump to use the Defense Production Act to reopen the White Marsh plant, but we hope you will move proactively to reopen the plant with the highest safety standards and put these employees back to work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

/s/ C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> NPR, "GM Will Build 30,000 Ventilators for U.S. Government," April 8, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Baltimore Sun, "Maryland's Confirmed Coronavirus Cases Increase by 854, Halting Two Days of Decreasing Figures," 2020.

/s/ Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

/s/ David Trone  
Member of Congress

/s/ John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

/s/ Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress