



March 17, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
Office of the President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are the trade associations that represent the companies manufacturing, and the dealerships distributing, servicing, and maintaining the operational safety of, the nation's motor vehicles. The Alliance for Automotive Innovation represents manufacturers comprising 99 percent of the country's vehicle production capability, while the National Automobile Dealers Association represents over 90 percent of the nation's franchised new-car and -truck dealers.

As our nation continues to confront the coronavirus's challenges, we want to underscore the importance of ensuring that consumers have access to a safe and well-functioning motor vehicle fleet. Motor vehicles, both new and old, are critical to ensure that the public can get food and other necessities of life, as well as to continue to interact with one another in a manner consistent with public health officials' recommendations. This applies not only to light-duty vehicles but also to the medium- and heavy-duty trucks that are a crucial component of the nation's transportation infrastructure. In fact, the federal government includes manufacturing (including auto manufacturing) as critical infrastructure when it comes to the economic continuity of the United States. Given the importance of safe transportation in addressing the coronavirus outbreak, we have an obligation to ensure that motor vehicles remain safe and are properly maintained.

To that end, it is vital that vehicle repair, maintenance, and sales facilities be considered essential operations when federal, state, and local officials impose certain requirements due to the coronavirus outbreak. These facilities perform needed safety recall repairs, manufacturer warranty work, and safety-critical maintenance, including brake repair, steering repair, and much more. And they provide replacement vehicles when necessary. We note that many local jurisdictions, when issuing closure orders for non-essential businesses, have included motor vehicle facilities on the list of those that are essential. For example, yesterday's shelter-in-place order issued by the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco determined that "gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities" were essential businesses outside the order's reach. That order can be found here: <https://oewd.org/sites/default/files/2020.03.16%20Final%20Order%20C19-07%20-%20Shelter%20in%20Place.pdf>. Similar guidance is needed nationally.

Accordingly, we hereby request that, as you consider further national initiatives to contain the severity and duration of the spread of the coronavirus, including potential Executive Orders, you ensure that our nation's motor vehicle fleet remains as safe and operational as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this crucial matter.



John Bozzella  
President and CEO  
Alliance for Automotive Innovation



Peter Welch  
President and CEO  
National Automobile Dealers Association

Cc: The Honorable Mike Pence, Vice President of the United States  
The Honorable Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury  
The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation  
The Honorable Eugene Scalia, Secretary of Labor  
The Honorable Wilber Ross, Jr., Secretary of Commerce  
The Honorable Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary of Homeland  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Minority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives  
The Governors of the 50 States