Drive It Home Testimony

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan—my name is James Dignan, I am the President and CEO of the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber and I thank you for allowing me to speak on this important resolution before the committee, and for your time and attention.

I testify on behalf of the The “Drive It Home Ohio” campaign which is a group of local business and community leaders, U.S. elected officials and more who have joined together as a coalition to urge General Motors to support growing its investment at the GM Lordstown Complex.

Nearly two decades ago, the Chamber worked with GM Lordstown's management team and UAW Locals 1714 and 1112 to rally the entire community to support the jointly created “Bring It Home” campaign. The effort was designed to demonstrate to top GM officials the Mahoning Valley’s willingness to accomplish whatever necessary to ensure the facility was seen as an asset on the company’s balance sheet.

With the elimination of two shifts at the Lordstown Complex over the past year-and-a-half, the Mahoning Valley and State of Ohio must again rally their support and encourage and assist GM’s leadership in reutilizing those shifts and the physical assets the plant offers.

The “Drive It Home Ohio” Campaign asks for your support in this effort and hopes to ensure that General Motors invests, retains and expands the GM plant in Lordstown. Additionally, the Lordstown Complex is one of the largest employers in the Mahoning Valley and we hope that you will offer any support to continue that investment in the Valley.

We thank you for your consideration and support for this initiative and we appreciate this resolution being drafted and considered in this body in hopes that it will continue our positive message that the Mahoning Valley possesses great access to freeway, a willing and capable workforce and has the resources available to encourage General Motors to consider an investment in the Mahoning Valley.

I respectfully urge you to support this resolution, and I thank you again for your attention.