## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 4, 2024

Oliver Zipse BMW Group Chief Executive Officer 300 Chestnut Ridge Road Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

Peter Rawlinson Chief Executive Officer Lucid Motors 7373 Gateway Boulevard Newark, CA 94560

Makato Uchida Chief Executive Officer Nissan Motor Corporation One Nissan Way Franklin, TN 37067

Elon Musk Chief Executive Officer Tesla Inc. 1 Tesla Road Austin, TX 78725

Jim Rowan Chief Executive Officer Volvo Cars 1800 Volvo Place Mahwah, NJ 07430

Toshihiro Mibe Chief Executive Officer Honda Motor Company 1919 Torrance Blvd. Torrance, CA 90501

Masahiro Moro Mazda Motor Corporation Chief Executive Officer 200 Spectrum Drive #100 Irvine, CA 92618

Robert "RJ" Scaringe Chief Executive Officer Rivian 14600 Myford Road Irvine, CA 92606

Kōji Satō Chief Executive Officer Toyota North America 6565 Headquarters Drive Plano, TX 75024 José Muñoz Chief Executive Officer Hyundai and Genesis NA 10550 Talbert Avenue Fountain Vlly, CA 92708

Ola Källenius Chief Executive Officer Mercedes-Benz One Mercedes-Benz Drive Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Atsushi Osaki Chief Executive Officer Subaru Corporation 1 Subaru Drive Camden, NJ 08103

Dr. Oliver Blume Chief Executive Officer Volkswagen Group 2200 Woodland Pt. Ave. Herndon, VA 20171

Dear Mr. Zipse, Mr. Mibe, Mr. Muñoz, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. Moro, Mr. Källenius, Mr. Uchida, Mr. Saringe, Mr. Osaki, Mr. Musk, Mr. Satō, Dr. Blume, Mr. Rowan:

We applaud the United Auto Workers' (UAW) historic agreements with GM, Ford, and Stellantis—the Big Three—which are a testament to how powerful workers are when they come together to collectively bargain. Many workers had concerns that the transition to electric vehicles would translate to fewer jobs, plant closures, or lower pay. However, the UAW's securing of a just transition ensures workers at electric vehicle battery plants can earn the same

high wages other UAW members earn. It further demonstrates that the electric vehicle transition can and must create good-paying jobs. It is time now for non-union automakers across the United States to demonstrate that same commitment by pledging not to interfere in any organizing activities occurring at its plants through the implementation of neutrality agreements.

We understand that UAW has begun organizing efforts at 13 non-unionized automakers: Tesla, Rivian, Lucid, BMW, Honda, Hyundai, Mazda, Mercedes, Nissan, Subaru, Toyota, Volkswagen, and Volvo Cars. We are concerned by reporting at numerous automakers that management has acted illegally to block unionization efforts. For example, according to employee accounts, Volkswagen managers confiscated and destroyed pro-union materials and Hyundai supervisors unlawfully banned pro-union materials in non-work areas outside of normal working hours. In addition, the National Labor Relations Board found that Tesla employed multiple illegal tactics aimed at stopping organizing efforts including online harassment, employee interrogations, and retaliatory firings. These retaliatory actions are hostile to workers' rights and must not be repeated if further organizing efforts are made by these companies' workers. We therefore urge you to commit to implementation of a neutrality agreement at your manufacturing plants.

A neutrality agreement solely consists of an employer agreeing not to engage in pre-election activities that influence workers' freedom to form a union. Your commitment to neutrality would ensure that management does not pressure workers into voting against unionization or delaying the election process. We believe a neutrality agreement is the bare minimum standard manufacturers should meet in respecting workers' rights, especially as companies receive and benefit from federal funds related to the electric vehicle transition.

The Inflation Reduction Act is the most significant clean energy and climate change legislation in our nation's history. However, in order for the electric vehicle transition to be a success for our economy and climate, we must make sure it includes a just transition for workers, not just for workers at the Big Three. We believe the electric vehicle transition will not and cannot come at the expense of workers' ability to form a union and collectively bargain for the fair wages, affordable health care, dignified retirement, and job security necessary for the continued strength of the U.S. auto industry. All workers, no matter what states they live in, should have a free and unhindered opportunity to join a union. We strongly urge you to implement a neutrality agreement at your plants and commit to negotiating in good faith if your employees do elect to unionize with the UAW.

Sincerely,

Gary **Peters** 

**United States Senator** 

Debbie Stabenow United States Senator Laphonza Butler
United States Senator

Showed Brown

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal United States Senator

Edward J. Markey United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren United States Senator Alex Padilla
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Bernard Sanders
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Robert P. Casey, Jr.
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Tammy Baldwin
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Chris Van Hollen United States Senator Tina Smith

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John Fetterman United States Senator

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