



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

March 27, 2020

Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

While Pennsylvania is in a current state of emergency related to the COVID19 pandemic, we ask that you consider automobile sales to be considered life-sustaining and therefore be permitted to resume business by using telephone communications and online technologies to conduct transactions.

Though it may seem that purchasing a new or used vehicle is a luxury and not be essential or life-sustaining, please consider that millions of Pennsylvanians live in rural communities and rely on automobiles to obtain groceries, prescriptions or receive healthcare – all of which are considered life-sustaining.

Furthermore, it is conceivable that our friends and neighbors have current vehicles that have been considered a total loss by their insurer, reached the end of a lease agreement or simply concluded their current vehicle requires too costly of a repair. For folks in this predicament to meet their essential needs, they may rely on friends to drive them to grocery stores and pharmacies. Such scenarios, while plausible, will increase social interactions in confined areas and therefore be counterproductive to social mitigation efforts.

In addition, it is important to note that under the current order, sales of emergency vehicles, including police cars and ambulances and other service vehicles, which are intended to deliver life-sustaining goods and services are prohibited. This could extend disruptions in service and delivery delays.

It should also be noted that online auto purchases by Pennsylvanians have continued through dealerships located in other states or even vendors that exist completely online. This places Pennsylvania's auto dealers at a serious disadvantage by not only ceasing their operations but by paving the way for online sales. This lack of competition will ultimately raise prices paid by customers who may already be in financial distress.

Communications with local dealerships, as well as input from the Pennsylvania Automotive Association, indicates that dealers in Pennsylvania can successfully conduct automotive transactions using online resources and over the telephone resulting with delivery of a vehicle to a consumer's home. This is consistent with protocols adopted by neighboring states such as Maryland and New York.

Recognizing your efforts to keep citizens of our Commonwealth safe while still having access to life-sustaining goods and services, we respectfully ask that you give this matter serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Turzai
Speaker of the House



Bryan Cutler
Majority Leader



Kerry Benninghoff
Majority Whip



Stan Saylor
Majority Appropriations Chairman



Marcy Toepel
Majority Caucus Chairman



Kurt Masser
Majority Caucus Administrator



Donna Oberlander
Majority Caucus Policy Chairman



Mike Reese
Majority Caucus Secretary