



STATE OF MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

October 26, 2023

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

The State of Michigan is thrilled about the Department of Energy's recent hydrogen hub designation for the Midwest Alliance for Clean Hydrogen. I was pleased to support the application. Michigan is a proud partner in this initiative, which will empower us to develop a cutting-edge hydrogen industry and build on our leadership in advanced domestic manufacturing and clean energy production. This award underscores the case I have been making for years: investing in Michigan will shore up our domestic manufacturing supply chain and power the national economy.

To build on our efforts, I write to you today about the Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grant Program, which offers Michigan an opportunity to build the future without leaving anyone or any place behind. Together, we can help more working people and manufacturers "make it" in Michigan.

As the state that put the world on wheels, Michigan is aware that our future is electric. As I have echoed in conversations with officials across the administration, the federal government must ensure that we secure strong economic opportunities for communities, workers, and businesses most affected by this ongoing transition. The Department of Energy's Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grant program offers us a generational opportunity to do just that, and Michigan looks forward to sending you a comprehensive and innovative proposal.

Michigan has 23 automotive OEM facilities, more than any other state, which have an average age of 36 years compared to just 20 years in Southern states. We employ the highest share – approximately 19% – of total U.S. motor vehicle and parts manufacturing workers nationwide. We also have the largest concentration of automotive suppliers in the country, making Michigan uniquely vulnerable to the EV transition. Approximately 140 independent automotive suppliers, employing over 45,000 workers, are in immediate short-term risk caused by the transition to EVs. Additionally, up to another 1,000 suppliers, and 120,000 workers in Michigan's broader automotive supply chain could be adversely impacted over time. Given this footprint, we need federal support through the transition.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

The Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grant Program is designed to support workers and businesses engaged in internal combustion engine vehicle manufacturing to find new pathways for economic growth in the electric vehicle ecosystem. This is an unprecedented, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ensure the transition before us leaves no one behind. As you implement the program over the course of the next few months, I ask that you ensure it is innovative and flexible to help mitigate the economic threat to the small supplier-based employers and employees in Michigan and across the nation. I also ask that you consider the impacts of this program up and down the domestic supply chain as you make your awards.

We look forward to utilizing this opportunity to continue putting the world on wheels and building a brighter future where anyone can “make it” in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen E. Whitmer
Governor of Michigan