

Mr. Omar Vargas
Vice President

Global Government Affairs

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September 29th, 2020

The Honorable Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ernst,

Thank you for your introduction of the Mobilize AMERICA Act. This legislation will provide a valuable incentive for the production of critically needed healthcare supplies in the United States as our nation continues to not only respond to COVID-19, but to also prepare for future pandemics and other public health emergencies.

3M is a leading provider of personal protective equipment and medical solutions worldwide for medical professionals, workers and the public. Besides the disposable N95 respirators that are 3M's most widely known personal protective equipment product, we are also a leading manufacturer and supplier of reusable respirators, including Powered-Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs), elastomeric reusable respirators, and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBAs). In addition, 3M provides other critical products in support of a pandemic response, including hand antiseptic, single patient use stethoscopes and disinfectants, as well as oxygenator membranes, disinfecting wipes, and COVID-specific health data coding systems.

3M is playing a unique and critical role in the fight against COVID-19 and it is a responsibility we take seriously. During this global crisis, the safety of our employees and the public, including healthcare workers and frontline workers responding to COVID-19, has been, and continues to be, paramount. We are grateful for the work our people are doing to support the public health response and are taking actions to help protect their well-being, including remote work when possible and robust safety protocols in our facilities.

In addition, since the initial COVID-19 outbreak, we've ramped up to maximum production levels of N95 respirators and doubled our global output. In the United States alone, we activated our surge capacity and made additional investments, increasing our N95 production rate from 22 million per month pre-pandemic to 50 million per month today – and by later this year, we will be producing at a rate of 95 million per month. As a result, our annual United States production level will ultimately be 1.1 billion per year, which is more than *four times* our pre-pandemic production level.

Even as 3M continues its efforts to respond to COVID-19, it is critical that strong incentives be provided to ensure healthcare supplies that will be needed for the ongoing response to COVID and for future public health emergencies are manufactured in the United States. By ensuring the up-front capital costs associated with manufacturing – including for both final producers as well as their related supply chains – are eligible for competitive grants, the Mobilize AMERICA Act will provide a strong incentive for manufacturers to not only expand existing production in the U.S., but also reinvigorate and encourage new production in our nation.

Again, 3M strongly supports the Mobilize America Act, and appreciates Senator Ernst's development and introduction of this important and timely legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Omar Vargas'.

Omar Vargas
Vice President, Global Government Affairs