

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 6, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Granholm:

We write in support of Mack and Volvo Trucks application to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grant Program (DE-FOA-0003106). If awarded, Volvo Trucks would increase electric heavy-duty vehicle production at its New River Valley (NRV), Virginia truck manufacturing facility by creating a mixed model assembly line.

NRV is the largest Volvo Trucks manufacturing facility in the world, and Volvo Trucks is the second largest employer in the region, sustaining 3,600 jobs in Dublin, Virginia, including 3,200 United Automobile Workers (UAW) jobs. This facility supports an additional 7,300 jobs in surrounding communities.

Volvo Trucks is a leader in heavy-duty vehicle electrification, producing transport solutions in the NRV to address the growing global climate challenges. The Volvo electric trucks manufactured in Dublin are commonly deployed in disadvantaged communities to mitigate extreme, longstanding air quality issues. These products are made using union labor and with continued investments to upskill employees through robust training programs, including registered certified apprenticeships. This application received the strong support of UAW Local 2069.

We understand the requested DOE investment of \$212 million is necessary to convert key manufacturing processes to mixed model assembly so more electric trucks can be produced along the main diesel assembly line at NRV and its companion Mack plant in the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania. Additionally, this grant will ensure NRV has a localized supply chain of battery packs, battery modules, and e-axles as it supports production of these products in Hagerstown, Maryland. Awarding a Domestic Manufacturing Conversion grant to Volvo Trucks will help position NRV and its union workforce to successfully manage the challenges of transitioning to electric vehicle production.

Federal support for electric heavy-duty vehicle manufacturing – including through the Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grant Program – is necessary to achieve the Biden administration's greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals in the transportation sector. Given the ambitiousness of the Administration's Greenhouse Gas Phase III regulations, it is critical that federal funds are made available to support electric heavy-duty vehicle manufacturing and the necessary infrastructure to support these vehicles.

We respectfully request that you provide full and fair consideration to Mack and Volvo Trucks' application to DOE's Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grant Program. If funded, this project will support the transition to electric heavy-duty vehicles, which will help reduce emissions from the transportation sector, lead to better health outcomes, and support manufacturing jobs in rural Virginia.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator