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Senate of Pennsylvania
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The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
225 Main Capitol
The Pennsylvania State Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

I commend you for taking vital steps to reopen Pennsylvania by allowing some businesses and employees to go back to work. I am writing today regarding another critical industry that desperately needs to reopen – car dealerships.

Not only do these businesses have millions of dollars' worth of vehicles sitting idle on their lots and thousands of employees sitting just as idle at home, but there are many people across the Commonwealth, including some in critical life-sustaining professions, who need reliable vehicles. Online sales, while an important step forward, simply does not adequately serve the needs of Pennsylvanians, especially those who prefer to 'kick the tires' before investing in a vehicle.

I know you are doing what you think is best for Pennsylvania, but keeping vehicle dealerships shut down is causing irreparable damage to the industry here in Northwestern Pennsylvania because of border bleed and an aging inventory. In the best of times the margins in the car sales industry are very tight and the current closure order is placing many of these businesses on the brink of insolvency and jeopardizing good-paying jobs.

Many car dealers in Erie have assured me that they can work within the CDC guidelines to keep employees and customers safe when they reopen their doors for vehicle sales. I believe we can, and should, allow them to reopen and operate in a safe manner.

I appreciate your consideration of this important issue and I look forward to a response in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Laughlin".

Dan Laughlin
State Senator
49th Senatorial District