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Brian Masse

MP/ Député

March 22, 2019

Honourable Navdeep Bains
Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Bains,

I am writing today about your role in the decision to disqualify the Canadian-made hybrid vehicle, the Chrysler Pacifica hybrid, from the zero emissions electric vehicle plan as proposed in Budget 2019. As you are aware, this minivan is assembled in my riding of Windsor, Ontario, and by way of this decision Canadian consumers are forced to purchase foreign-made vehicles to qualify for this incentive. Your Prime Minister personally visited our plant and made promises to support the women and men who manufacture this award-winning product.

Specifically, I am requesting what advice, information, research or other direction was either provided or requested from you by Finance Canada and Minister Morneau in this decision-making process. Were you and your department consulted, and if so, was there a discussion to include this Canadian vehicle into the final decision? Were groups such as the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME), the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers Association (CVMA), or Unifor approached to discuss this initiative representing the Canadian automotive and manufacturing industries that hold a direct stake in this proposal?

Furthermore, I am requesting a list of the of direct manufacturers, parts suppliers, or retailers that Canadians will be directed to if they are interested in purchasing a vehicle under this initiative. Is there a list available with the makes and models of vehicle that qualify? Will this be the same list for Canadian businesses who will move forward replenishing their fleets under this proposed incentive plan?

This decision by your government is creating a short-term market distortion that will have lasting and long-term impacts on the economy. By choosing not to include Canadian made zero emissions vehicles, or companies that support the design and production of them, further exacerbates the lack of automotive policy and instead puts preferential treatment on foreign made and assembled products. For a government that says they stand with autoworkers and industry in this country, this was a very ill-informed decision that needs to be corrected to include Canadian made vehicles or manufacturers that support our own economy and autoworkers.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this very important matter. I look forward to your response and providing answers to my questions and request. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Masse". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Brian Masse MP
Windsor West