

Brian Masse

Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

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Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Bains,

I am writing today following my most recent visit to the picket lines at an automotive manufacturing facility in my riding, Nemak, that is currently slated to close two years earlier than initially promised. As you know, Nemak received \$3 million from your government and another grant of \$1.5 million from the Government of Ontario since 2015. Yet, they have now concluded that this plant must close and are leaving the workers in a lurch by closing sooner than initially agreed upon with the workers and Unifor Local 200.

Today I am requesting that you step in and hold Nemak to account by ensuring that the company respects the contract that they have with workers effective until 2022. This contract was signed between the company and workers, and by nullifying that agreement, it sends a message that our workers don't deserve the rights that they have worked to establish.

Since Nemak is now abandoning Canada and our workers, there are questions regarding the \$3 million in funding that they received through the *Automotive Supplier Innovation Program*. Specifically, this program is funded by Canadian taxpayers for the development of the new technologies here. Now, Nemak is taking this innovation to Mexico to facilitate innovation and jobs there. Can you please explain:

- Will you be recovering the \$3 million that you gave them?
- Was it conditional, and if so, what terms were attached to the money?
- Are there repercussions for Canadian funds being used to facilitate innovation in Mexico or other locations?
- Was there a term attached to the funding?

I understand fully that the industry is transitioning and becoming more innovative. However, your government has no plan for stopping the plant closures or at the very least mitigating the effects on the workers and their families by having established and clear rules in these instances. We have no greenfield plans to attract future investments, no strategy for global development and retaking our position as a worldwide leader, and no plans to work with the adjacent tool and mold sector to attract opportunities for them like the recent \$4 billion in investment opportunities in Detroit. Instead, it seems we are funding innovation and jobs across the world but not here at home.

Respectfully, I am asking that you quit idling. These workers need and deserve answers. It is vital that you step in and ensure that Nematik respects the contract they committed to until 2022 and answer the questions regarding the funding.

Our jobs are speeding away and our future in the automotive manufacturing industry is uncertain. This did not have to be the case and there is little time left to protect the remaining jobs and facilities.

Thank you in advance for your time and immediate attention to this matter. I look forward to your respective responses.

Yours truly,



Brian Masse MP
Windsor West

NDP Innovation, Science and Economic Development Critic
Jerry Dias, Unifor National President
John D'Agnolo, President, Unifor Local 200
Lisa Gretzky MPP (Windsor West)
Dennis Darby, President & CEO – Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters
Mark Nantais, President – Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers Association
Jonathon Azzopardi, Chairman, Canadian Association of Mold Makers