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**TIM RYAN**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

February 5, 2021

Merrick Murphy  
President, Howmet Structure and Wheel Systems  
Cleveland Operations  
1600 Harvard Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44105

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I write as a follow up on my previous conversations with you and company officials regarding the ongoing discussions between management and union officials to potentially shutter the Niles facility melt operation. As I stated in those conversation, I believe such an action would have a demoralizing impact on the workforce now and possibly into the future. Avoiding a furnace closure is paramount because of the capital-intensive expenditures associated with rebuild or a start-from-scratch process, and I pledge my support to help identify resources and incentives to prevent such a situation.

Without question, the COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching economic consequences disrupting aerospace and defense companies across the nation, but through no fault of the hard-working employees who may lose their jobs. I hope that every available option to alleviate a downsizing would be examined and fully exhausted. For example, Ohio's "SharedWork Ohio" voluntary layoff aversion program allows workers to remain employed and employers to retain trained staff during times of reduced business activity. In addition to that, there are other innovative statewide or regional retention programs that might be available.

As the Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense, I have worked with Howmet and the United Steel Workers (USW) on a variety of federal matters such as Buy American laws, funding for the titanium-based defense products, and a titanium stockpile. I respectfully ask that your company explore every solution possible before rendering a decision with indelible impact to the company and employees. The United Steel Workers want to be a part of the solution and have expressed that to me time and time again over the last several months. I hope that both sides can come together and seek an amicable resolution. And as always, I am available if needed so please don't hesitate to contact me anytime.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you on this matter of grave importance.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan  
Member

Cc: Ben Squires - Government Affairs  
Kevin Vadini & Bethany Prusky – On site labor relations

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