



Carl Kennebrew
President

Dear President Trump,

In times of crisis, American workers have always stepped up to the plate. Workers at General Electric are no exception. As the International President of the IUE-CWA, I am humbled by the hard work and perseverance of thousands of GE workers across the country who recently called on GE to bring critical ventilator production work to their facilities. GE employs some of the most talented and experienced manufacturing workers in the world, thousands of people in Virginia, Ohio, Kansas, Texas, Kentucky, New York, and Massachusetts who build and maintain equipment in aviation, power grids, electrical systems and lighting. These workers have the drive and the knowledge to meet this current crisis head on. They are asking GE to do the right thing by putting thousands of Americans to work saving American lives.

We applaud GE's efforts in partnering with other corporations to jumpstart ventilator production, but this step simply isn't enough. GE's partnership with Ford Corporation will begin the production of 50,000 ventilators in the next 100 days, and GE's Healthcare production plant is now running at capacity. At this rate, GE's current capacity will be approximately 15,000 ventilators a month by mid-July. While this is a welcomed first step in combating the Covid-19 pandemic, these actions alone are not enough. **We urge you to instruct GE to further increase its production of ventilators by setting-up production in underutilized facilities within its aviation, electrical systems, power grid, and lighting divisions.**

The most effective way for GE to meet our nation's ventilator needs is to put thousands of skilled GE workers to work in underutilized GE facilities across the country. Unfortunately, GE has done just the opposite. In recent weeks, GE announced massive lay-offs in its aviation workforce, and informed workers at its Dallas facility of the plant's impending closure, leaving workers who have the skills required to make ventilators jobless and the space to develop life-saving equipment empty.

GE workers across the country are asking to be put to work saving fellow Americans. These GE facilities in Texas, Virginia, New York, Massachusetts, Kansas, Kentucky, and Ohio have the capacity to begin ventilator production immediately, without disrupting existing production of critical aviation, power and electrical equipment:

- **GE Power Center of Excellence, Dallas, TX:** On February 20, 2020, GE announced the intent to close this shop and lay off the employees who help keep our national electric grid running. Employees in Dallas are demanding that GE use this facility and its highly-skilled workers to manufacture ventilators and are calling for increased safety measures to protect workers at this time. The plant has won the company's coveted "Center of Excellence" designation and has a clean room which would help facilitate ventilator production.
- **Former Industrial Controls Plant, Salem, VA:** On November 28, 2018, GE closed this factory and moved production to India. Over one million square feet sits empty, and 200 workers lost their jobs. These workers should be put back to work manufacturing ventilators to help fight the pandemic. Their expertise manufacturing circuit boards and custom control systems for gas, wind, and solar energy turbines could easily be put to use right now manufacturing ventilators.

- **GE Global Research Center, Schenectady, NY:** The Schenectady facility produces generators for power grids in the USA and throughout the world. This facility, which formerly employed 20,000 workers and now employs just over 800, clearly has significant excess capacity and is particularly well-suited for ventilator work. The Schenectady plant houses a research and development facility and clean room that had been used to produce mammography imaging equipment.
- **GE Aviation, Lynn, MA; Arkansas City, KS; Madisonville, KY:** The Lynn facility manufactures jet engines and military aircraft parts, and at one time employed 20,000 workers. Now only 1,230 work there amid cavernous, empty manufacturing spaces. Lynn workers are calling on GE to utilize this space to manufacture ventilators for COVID-19 patients. On March 23, GE announced 353 layoffs in **Arkansas City, Kansas**, representing more than half of the workforce at its engine maintenance facility, where tens of thousands of square feet are available for conversion to medical manufacturing. At the **Madisonville, Kentucky** military jet engine facility, 13,000 square feet sit empty and could be converted immediately to ventilator production.
- **GE Lighting, Cleveland, OH and Bucyrus, OH:** Both lighting facilities manufacture state-of-the-art lighting components and have the capacity and skills to bring in equipment immediately to start production of ventilators. At Neela Park, the former headquarters of GE Lighting in Cleveland, there are multiple secure buildings with ample space to take on this work. In Bucyrus, the current facility that formerly housed over 500 workers now employs only half that number.

Clearly, GE has the capacity and talent to help solve the ventilator crisis. As one of the major producers of lifesaving hospital ventilators, GE is poised to save countless lives if it rapidly expands production to meet America's urgent needs. IUE-CWA members have the skills to make ventilators, GE has the capacity in these facilities, and production managers at GE Healthcare have the experience and knowledge to make this happen now.

On behalf of thousands of GE workers, I urge you to use your authority under the Defense Production Act to compel GE to do the right thing. You alone can provide GE with the motivation to partner with their workforce to meet this crisis head-on. Your constituents want to work. Tell GE to put them to work saving American lives!

Respectfully,



Carl Kennebrew, President
IUE-CWA