

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 5, 2019

James Meyer
President & CEO
FreightCar America
Two North Riverside Plaza
Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Meyer,

We write to you to register our concern that FreightCar America has chosen to close its manufacturing plant in Roanoke, Virginia, and offshore those jobs. FreightCar America has been a prominent employer in Roanoke for over a decade. The Roanoke community has made significant investments in your company; moving the plant will have a detrimental impact on the hardworking employees at the facility, their families, and the entire Roanoke community.

As 181 CEOs of America's largest companies acknowledged earlier this year, investing in workers and communities is the only way for businesses to succeed in the long-run. FreightCar America has 200 dedicated, hardworking employees in Roanoke. Transportation Communications Union (TCU/IAM) representatives were willing to work with you to lower costs, demonstrating that the plant's workers are committed to keeping FreightCar America in Roanoke. In addition, TCU/IAM's understanding was that this move was about consolidation related to changing market demand and new business models deployed by customers. The subsequent announcement of a new joint venture with a Mexican manufacturing company suggests these jobs are being outsourced, not simply consolidated. We encourage you to view Roanoke and your workforce there as an asset, and urge you to invest in these workers and their capabilities, rather than starting over in a new location abroad.

We are requesting a briefing for our staff to understand the rationale for the move and discuss how we can ensure that these 200 well-paying jobs stay in Roanoke. Please reach out to Paul Lapointe at Paul_Lapointe@kaine.senate.gov and Lauren Marshall at Lauren_Marshall@warner.senate.gov to schedule. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator