May 12, 2020

Mr. Elon Musk
Co-Founder and CEO
Tesla Inc.
3203 Jack Northrop Avenue
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Dear Mr. Musk,

I write regarding the recent order by the State of California that Tesla’s Fremont factory remain closed even though other parts of the state are reopening following the mandated COVID-19 quarantine. I support your efforts to reopen in a safe and responsible manner and return your furloughed employees back to work. Unfortunately, the actions of Governor Newsom and local officials do not appear to be designed in a manner to allow Tesla to operate on a level-playing field within a highly competitive marketplace.

As you consider your options and the future of your business, Tesla would be very welcome in North Florida. I believe you would find competitively priced real estate located near major airports, railroad lines, interstates or deep-water ports like the Port of Panama City. We have multiple colleges and universities that have a proven record of supporting and training the workforce of the future, including one of the nation’s preeminent engineering schools in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. As you know from your already significant presence in Florida, we are a state that welcomes innovators and stands ready to support Tesla’s future growth and expansion,

In addition to the many business advantages in North Florida, we have great weather, food, and folks. There is no state income tax, and the state government is very pro-business. Our beaches are routinely rated among the best in the world and the outdoor recreational opportunities are endless. To top it off, you would have a short hop to the Space Coast.

Elected officials in the Florida Panhandle understand the value that Tesla would bring to our communities and would be proud to support your efforts. I believe you would find the experience to be a polar opposite from your current situation with California. I stand ready to assist in any way I can and am available at your convenience to discuss the possibility.

Come on down, the water’s fine!

Sincerely,

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress