

CITY of BATH, MAINE

Office of the City Manager

Peter H. Owen, P. E.

55 Front Street

Bath, Maine 04530

March 19, 2020

Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Angus King
133 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Chellie Pingree
2162 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Jared Golden
1223 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: COVID-19 and General Dynamics' Bath Iron Works

Dear Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree, and Representative Golden:

We are writing with concerns regarding Bath Iron Works continuing operations during the Covid 19 (coronavirus) pandemic. We appreciate the response efforts at the State and Federal levels regarding this unprecedented pandemic, but we do feel that the City of Bath and the State of Maine is being put at undue risk due the pressures on BIW.

According to a statement from Bath Iron Works, they must remain open for business to "meet the needs of our US Navy customer and our national defense" and construction of these world-class destroyers require employees to work in confined spaces and in close contact with other employees. We have partnered with BIW on parking solutions, since their shuttle provider has discontinued service, but we still cannot comprehend why they are being asked to stay open.

This does not reconcile with the action in recent days that has forced many small businesses to close in an effort to protect the public from gathering in places of business. The fact that one of the State's largest employers continues to permit over 8,000 employees from 16 counties enter Bath on a daily basis, intermingling in close quarters and then return to their communities is a failure in recognition of the threat at hand. Clearly, this continuing action is a significant danger to the City of Bath and the State with regards to the spread of the corona virus.

Meanwhile, our residents have been contacting the City daily to ask us to stop the influx of these 8,000 employees into our municipality by shutting down the shipyard. This is not within our authority.

The City continues to follow the lead of the Center for Disease Control with regards to best practice to keep our residents safe and healthy and limit the spread of this virus. We ask that the same expectations be

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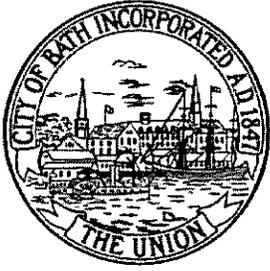
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held for any Federal defense contractors. 8,000 people are gathering at the shipyard daily. Not 10 people, not 50 people... 8,000 people.

We are asking that any directives to keep defensive contractors, like Bath Iron Works, open during this pandemic to be reconsidered for the health and safety of the residents of the City of Bath and the State of Maine.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter H. Owen, P. E.
Bath City Manager

Mari H. Eosco
Bath City Council Chair

CC: Governor Janet T. Mills
Jon Fitzgerald, Bath Iron Works Vice President & General Counsel
Rep. Sean Paulhus, State Representative
Sen. Eloise Vitelli, Senate Assistant Majority Leader