

COMMITTEE ON  
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COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,  
AND PENSIONS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4607

August 2, 2018

John L. Flannery  
Chairman & CEO  
General Electric Company  
3135 Easton Turnpike  
Fairfield, CT 06828

Dear Mr. Flannery:

I write to urge you to reconsider GE's decision to close the manufacturing facility in Salem, Virginia and outsource the jobs. The movement of these jobs would have a detrimental effect on the Salem/Roanoke area and the dedicated families employed at this plant.

As you know, the Salem GE plant has been around for more than 60 years. It is a pillar of the community and one of the area's largest employers. The high quality American manufacturing work of the employees in Salem is a testament to a highly skilled, highly motivated workforce in the Roanoke Valley. While the decision to retain the remaining 200 employees in the area is important, the loss of more than 250 positions due to GE's decision, I believe, would be a dramatic misstep.

The workers at this facility have made many concessions to GE in the past as an effort to maintain these jobs. When the local CWA union agreed to a two-tier wage system in the past, it was a difficult decision but a compromise in good faith to ensure these positions could stay in Salem. A decision to now close the manufacturing plant is an affront to those sacrifices made by committed and loyal workers to GE.

After the passage of the Republican tax bill last year, GE said:

"GE supports the tax reform plan because it would upgrade the U.S. to a territorial tax system for the first time in history, bring rates in line with other countries, and allow U.S. businesses and workers to compete fairly around the world, so it's the quality of our products that determine whether we win global deals."

U.S.-manufactured goods are the best in the world and can compete against any product made abroad. That's why I again urge you to maintain these jobs in Salem and reconsider the decision to close the facility.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



TIM KAINE