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PAUL D. TONKO
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS,
AND PUBLIC LANDS
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

February 17, 2021

Albert Bourla, DVM, Ph.D.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Pfizer
235 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Dr. Bourla,

I write on behalf of my constituents in the Capital Region of New York to request your help as we work in Congress to maximize the rapid production and distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations in the United States. In this pursuit, I would welcome your suggestions on how Congress and the Biden-Harris Administration can best support your efforts to quickly scale up production of safe, reliable COVID-19 vaccines across the nation.

With the emergence of dangerous new COVID variants, our nation continues to reach chilling new heights in this public health crisis. In recent weeks, my district in Upstate New York had been tracking more COVID-19 cases and recording more weekly deaths than at any time before, and our rate of spread continues to outpace the rate of vaccinations.¹ Ten million New Yorkers are currently eligible to be vaccinated, far more than my state's weekly allowance of these life-saving vaccines.² New York hospitals, local health departments, and other community organizations and providers, collectively prepared to administer vaccines to the public at a much faster speed, have requested additional doses and have been denied week after week. Meanwhile, a quarter of our hospital staff across the state have yet to be vaccinated.³

New York's large population of vaccine-eligible individuals and our established network of vaccination sites that are fully prepared to administer the shots at a rapid pace continue to surpass the state's supply of vaccines. We are positioned to make the most of any increase in

¹ Stanforth, Lauren. "Albany County Ends January With Record Number of Coronavirus Deaths." *Times Union*, January 31, 2021. <https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Albany-County-ends-January-with-record-number-of-15912078.php>.

² "Governor Cuomo Announces New York City Indoor Dining Can Reopen on February 12." February 8, 2021. New York State Office of the Governor. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-york-city-indoor-dining-can-reopen-early-february-12#>.

³ "Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker." New York State Department of Health. <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-tracker>.

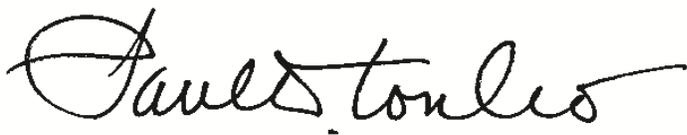
supply, and I am prepared to do whatever it takes to help accelerate vaccine production and significantly expand distribution in my home district and across the nation.

As I discuss possible solutions to this critical shortfall with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I would appreciate your prompt response to the following questions:

- What are the primary factors or pain points limiting production of COVID-19 vaccines?
- Are your operations experiencing a shortage of raw materials needed for vaccine production? A shortage of human labor? A shortage of transportation vehicles or other logistics resources? A shortage of funding?
- Has your company experienced challenges in activating federal resources available through the Defense Production Act?
- How could Congress or the federal government better support, establish or expand public-private partnerships to accelerate the production of COVID-19 vaccinations?
- Do you foresee any challenges in meeting the Biden-Harris Administration's goal to increase the COVID-19 vaccine supply by 20 percent over the next three weeks? What will you need to increase supply more quickly?
- Are there other areas where the federal government or states could provide further assistance to companies producing COVID-19 vaccinations?

As a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, I am monitoring this situation closely. As an engineer, I understand the challenges of increasing production efficiency to meet the demands of this national crisis. I greatly appreciate your efforts to help see our country through this critical time. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Tonko". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress