

Volvo Construction Equipment (VCE) – Verbal Testimony

Dear Members of the House Republican Study Committee:

My name is Gustavo Casagrandi, and I am the head of operations at Volvo Construction Equipment in Shippensburg. Thank you for the opportunity to share Volvo Construction Equipment's perspective on key policy issues affecting our market growth, including infrastructure policy, workforce development, which is critical to our U.S. manufacturing competitiveness.

There are many reasons why VCE chose to be in Pennsylvania but the two biggest were the strong workforce in the area and access to the I-81 corridor. With the strong economic growth in the areas where we do business, these are also major opportunities we want to partner with you to solve.

As for workforce development, Volvo Construction Equipment's investments are fundamentally **investments in people and place**, particularly in **Central Pennsylvania**. In **Shippensburg**, Volvo Construction Equipment operates a major manufacturing, engineering, and headquarters campus that produces wheel loaders and compactors and serves as our **North American headquarters and engineering hub**. This Central Pennsylvania facility supports thousands of direct and indirect jobs and draws nearly **10,000 visitors each year** for workforce training, engineering collaboration, and customer engagement.

Across Pennsylvania, the Volvo Group employs **approximately 5,500 workers**, supports more than **5,000 indirect jobs**, and has invested **\$748 million in capital investment since 2011**. These VCE and Mack Trucks jobs are long-term, high-skilled manufacturing, engineering, and technical service jobs that anchor regional supply chains and contribute to sustained economic growth in the Commonwealth, including 1,000 employees tied to Volvo Construction Equipment.

Workforce development is a core priority in Shippensburg. Volvo Construction Equipment has invested in **technical training centers, dealer and customer training facilities, and modernized workspaces** designed to attract, train, and retain skilled workers. These investments ensure that the Central Pennsylvania workforce is prepared to support modern, increasingly advanced construction equipment and evolving manufacturing technologies.

Our approach to innovation is **technology-neutral and market-driven**, allowing workers and employers to adapt as equipment technologies evolve—whether through advanced internal combustion systems, electrification, or digital jobsite tools—without forcing premature transitions that could disrupt jobs, productivity, or affordability.

There is a misconception about working in manufacturing and with the trades in general. Our employees have responsibilities ranging from telematic data analysts, engineering and logistics specialists to machinists, welders, and assemblers. All well-paying jobs with strong benefits.

At VCE, we have been proactive in creating partnerships to solve our challenges. These partnerships are opportunities for us to recruit and create awareness about the opportunities in manufacturing. We collaborate closely with the Franklin County Career & Technology Center on a

customized program for Volvo for industrial workers. We work closely with Shippensburg University through a scholarship program to support initiatives such as the new engineering program, and we employ over 50 interns from Shippensburg University and other universities across the state each year. In addition, Penn State University is an Academic Preferred Partner of the Volvo Group.

We also work with the National and Pennsylvania chapters of SkillsUSA to support middle school, high school, and post-secondary students and professional members enrolled in training programs in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. We have strongly supported the Skills PA chapters heavy equipment operator program and have been instrumental in making it a national competition at the annual SkillsUSA national convention.

As for the I-81 corridor, this is a critical thru-way for our supply chain. The Volvo Group supply chain stretches from southwest Virginia, where we produce Volvo Trucks, to Hagerstown, MD, where we produce engines and transmissions for all Volvo and Mack Trucks, and where we employ over 500 Pennsylvanians. The supply chain continues to Shippensburg and toward Mack Trucks in Allentown, PA.

The corridor impacts over 8,500 Volvo Group employees and billions of dollars of goods and services that move in and out of our facilities and out to our dealers in North America annually. Here in Shippensburg, we manage almost six hundred employee vehicles coming and going each day as well as 40 truckloads daily.

We continue to be involved with the I-81 Corridor Coalition to find ways to improve the safety and efficiency of freight and passenger movement. The result will save lives, reduce costs, and expand economic development opportunities.

As policymakers consider infrastructure funding, domestic manufacturing incentives, and workforce programs, Volvo Construction Equipment's experience in **Shippensburg and Central Pennsylvania** demonstrates how aligned policy can translate directly into **good-paying jobs, skills development, and durable regional economic impact**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Volvo Construction Equipment (VCE) – Written Testimony

Chairman and Members of the House Republican Study Committee,

My name is Gustavo Casagrandi, and I serve as Head of Operations for Volvo Construction Equipment in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on workforce development and infrastructure—two issues that are central to U.S. manufacturing competitiveness and economic growth.

Volvo Construction Equipment chose to locate in Pennsylvania for two simple reasons: a strong, skilled workforce and access to the I-81 corridor. Those same factors continue to drive our success today, and they highlight where smart, practical policy can deliver real results for American workers and manufacturers.

Workforce: Investing in People and Place

At Volvo Construction Equipment, our investments are fundamentally **investments in people and place**, particularly in **Central Pennsylvania**. In **Shippensburg**, we operate a major manufacturing, engineering, and headquarters campus that produces wheel loaders and compactors and serves as our **North American headquarters and engineering hub**.

This facility supports thousands of direct and indirect jobs and attracts nearly **10,000 visitors each year** for workforce training, engineering collaboration, and customer engagement. Across Pennsylvania, the Volvo Group, VCE and Mack Trucks, employ approximately 5,500 workers, support more than 5,000 indirect jobs, and have invested **\$748 million in capital investment since 2011**. These are long-term, high-skilled manufacturing and engineering jobs that anchor regional supply chains and support sustained economic growth.

Importantly, these investments have also transformed what manufacturing work looks like. We have invested heavily in **advanced manufacturing equipment, automation, robotics, and machining**, along with improvements to **safety, ergonomics, and overall working conditions**. These upgrades make jobs safer, more productive, and more attractive—while ensuring our U.S. facilities remain globally competitive.

There is still a misconception about careers in manufacturing and the skilled trades. At Volvo Construction Equipment, our employees include engineers, telematics data analysts, logistics specialists, machinists, welders, and assemblers. These are **well-paying jobs with strong benefits and clear career pathways**, supported by continuous training as technology evolves.

Building the Talent Pipeline

Workforce development does not happen in isolation. Volvo Construction Equipment has built strong partnerships to develop the next generation of skilled workers.

We collaborate with the **Franklin County Career & Technology Center** on a customized industrial workforce program. We work closely with **Shippensburg University**, supporting new engineering

programs and employing more than **50 interns each year** from universities across Pennsylvania. **Penn State University** is also an Academic Preferred Partner of the Volvo Group.

In addition, we actively support **SkillsUSA** at the national and Pennsylvania levels, including middle school, high school, and post-secondary programs. We have been instrumental in expanding the **heavy equipment operator program** and helping elevate it to a national competition. These partnerships demonstrate how employer-driven, locally focused workforce initiatives can align education with real-world industry needs.

Our approach to innovation is **technology-neutral and market-driven**. Whether through advanced internal combustion engines, electrification, or digital jobsite tools, flexibility is critical. Policies that preserve choice allow workers and employers to adapt without forcing premature transitions that could disrupt jobs, productivity, or affordability.

Infrastructure: The Role of the I-81 Corridor

Infrastructure—particularly the **I-81 corridor**—is equally critical to our workforce and operations. This corridor is the backbone of the Volvo Group supply chain, connecting manufacturing facilities in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

The I-81 corridor impacts more than **8,500 Volvo Group employees** and supports the movement of **billions of dollars in goods and services** each year. In Shippensburg alone, we manage nearly **600 employee vehicles and 40 trucks daily** along with significant truck traffic supporting manufacturing and distribution.

We remain actively engaged with the **I-81 Corridor Coalition** to improve safety, reliability, and efficiency. Targeted investments in this corridor will save lives, reduce costs, strengthen supply chains, and expand economic development across the region.

Closing

Volvo Construction Equipment's experience in **Shippensburg and Central Pennsylvania** demonstrates how aligned workforce and infrastructure policy can translate directly into **good-paying jobs, safer and more modern workplaces, and durable regional economic impact**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen American manufacturing.