

# Boxwood: Plant's fate in hands of General Motors board

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## Motors board

### Markell again urges GM to save Boxwood

By GINGER GIBSON  
The News Journal

Gov. Jack Markell continued lobbying Saturday to keep the General Motors Boxwood Road plant open as the company's board of directors debated the future of the auto giant — and its manufacturing facilities — behind closed doors in Detroit.

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GM has been rescued before — by DuPont. El

an asset who could help rebuild the stalling company. "The facility is equipped with what I understand to be one of the most modern and finest paint facilities in the industry," Markell wrote. "It would be a waste to see this facility, and its personnel, scrapped."

It was unclear Saturday whether that message got through to the GM board, which met for a second day to

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"The Boxwood team is a 'Can Do Group' who represent the best of the industry and General Motors," Markell wrote.

Markell pointed to Boxwood's good labor relations and location on the East Coast, where an increased demand for electric cars might occur first. GM said last week that it is committed to expanding its line of electric cars to remain competitive in the future.

Markell focused on that by highlighting research being done at the University of Delaware on vehicle-to-grid technology, or V2G.

"Their knowledge of V2G could prove to be a benefit to GM and its work force as they strive to be on the cutting edge of this technology," Markell wrote.

Markell also said Delaware's proximity to large population centers and Wilmington's port make the state an ideal location for manufacturing.

"There could not be a better

located facility for the distribution of General Motors products anywhere on the East Coast," Markell wrote.

State Sen. Karen Peterson, D-Stanton, whose district is near the Boxwood plant, said she is cautiously hopeful — but not convinced — that Boxwood will remain open.

"I'm not sure how it can be cause of what's happening with GM at the top," Peterson said. "GM and Chrysler have both been lifelines for this state for years."

Peterson also said the plant's closing would contribute to the continuing loss of Delaware's middle class.

Sen. Patricia Blevins, D-Elsmere, whose district includes the Boxwood plant, said she also is worried about its future despite Markell's lobbying.

"The fact that General Motors is struggling has been apparent for the workers at the plant for a while," Blevins said. "There has been some real quiet worrying about the future." Representatives of UAW

Local 435, which represents nearly 1,000 active and laid-off Boxwood workers, could not be reached for comment.

Chrysler LLC, which already closed its former assembly plant in Newark, filed for bankruptcy protection April 30 and chose a path similar to the one GM is taking.

A judge heard three days of testimony and arguments last week over the sale of most of Chrysler's assets to Italian car maker Fiat SpA.

U.S. Judge Arthur Gonzalez

is expected to approve the sale Monday, pushing Chrysler closer to its goal of a speedy exit from bankruptcy protection.

But an appeal is likely from three Indiana state pension and construction funds, which invested in Chrysler debt and say the deal isn't fair.

That may force Chrysler to further postpone the deal's closing.

Chrysler claims that any substantial delay could push Fiat to back out of the deal, because the Italian automaker has set a

deadline of June 15 to wrap up a transaction.

GM's stock tumbled to the lowest price in the company's 100-year history on Friday, closing at just 75 cents after trading as low as 74 cents.

In a Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization, the shares would become virtually worthless.

Information from the Associated Press was used in this story.

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