



OFFICE OF MAYOR VIRG BERNERO
124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE – NINTH FLOOR
LANSING, MI 48933

November 20, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC

Re: URGENT – Mayors from Across America Urge Solution on Automotive Loan Funding

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid:

We write on behalf of mayors from across America to urge you to find a consensus approach to providing \$25 billion in emergency loan funding now to the struggling U.S. automotive sector.

On this Tuesday, November 18, we led a delegation of 35 mayors and local officials from across the nation to Congress. We met with Senators and House members of both parties. We are making sure that Congress knows, as you know, that local governments cannot withstand the failure or further deterioration of our automotive facilities. Local governments will bear the worst brunt of the closed plants, idled brownfields, unemployed citizens, lost tax revenue, increasing foreclosures, and other terrible impacts of inaction.

Although we absolutely share your perspective that the \$25 billion in funding under the Department of Energy Section 136 program is rightly directed for clean car re-tooling, we urge you to support the use of this DOE fund now for emergency loan funding, to prevent the loss of plants and jobs. If these companies fail, it will be difficult to re-tool for cleaner cars and greener jobs, as we will be focused on severe economic depression in automotive communities.

Please find a solution with your colleagues in the House and Senate in both parties. And please let us know what we can do today to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Virg Bernero
Mayor
Lansing MI

Robert Cluck
Mayor
Arlington TX

Cedric Glover
Mayor
Shreveport LA

Carty Finkbeiner
Mayor
Toledo OH

Abdul Haidous
Mayor
Wayne MI

George K. Heartwell
Mayor
Grand Rapids MI

Kevin Hinkley
Mayor
Wixom MI

Karen Majewski
Mayor
Hamtramck MI

Gerald R. Brown
Mayor
Trenton MI

Donald J. Williamson
Mayor
Flint MI

Paul Schreiber
Mayor
Ypsilanti MI

Gary McDowell
Mayor
Adrian MI

Jack Kirksey
Mayor
Livonia MI

cc: Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Michigan House delegation

Enclosure

VB/mw

MAIN STREETS & AUTOMOTIVE JOBS NEED HELP!

*MAYORS FROM ACROSS AMERICA CALL ON CONGRESS TO HELP SAVE
AND TRANSFORM THE AMERICAN AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR*

As our nation continues to struggle through a domestic credit crisis, the need for quick and decisive action to *bring stability to our nation's automakers has never been greater or more critically important.* Main street communities cannot withstand the failure or further deterioration of the American automotive industry.

The loss of jobs and tax base, and the further spiraling descent of income and housing stability, will undermine the foundation of many American cities. As the leaders of cities across Michigan and across America, **we urge Congress to provide \$25+ billion in rescue funding to the automotive sector now.**

America needs to take action to preserve good automotive jobs and help transform our manufacturing communities with new green technologies and innovation.

-- Mayor Robert Cluck, Arlington TX

More than 3 million American jobs, \$150 billion in personal income, and \$50 billion in annual state & local tax revenues are tied to auto manufacturing, according to the Center for Automotive Research. The failure of the domestic auto sector could literally drive the nation's economy off the cliff.

On November 18, mayors and local officials from across the nation visited Congress to urge help for America's bedrock industry. Mayors that depend on automotive facilities and jobs call on Congress to take action now:



1. **Emergency Loan Relief for Automakers Now** – To prevent economic stagnation and suffering, Congress should act now to provide \$25+ billion in emergency relief for bridge loans to American automotive companies, through whatever funding mechanism that can be made available now.



2. **Unemployment Benefits** – The nation has a duty to support the workers left behind in this struggling economy, which is why mayors strongly support the extension of unemployment benefits by the Congress this week.

For further information contact Mayor Virg Bernero of Lansing, Michigan at 517.483.4141 or Matt Ward at The Ferguson Group at 202.331.8500 or mward@tfgnet.com.