



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

November 18, 2008

VIA FAX:

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

This week, Congress is expected to take up legislation that amends the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA) to provide a \$25 billion emergency bridge loan to the ailing U.S. automobile industry and its suppliers' under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). **The United Steelworkers (USW) supports this effort to use part of these funds to provide conditioned relief to an important manufacturing sector critical to re-building a strong U.S. economy.**

While TARP was established to help ailing banks, insurance companies and other financial firms, the nationwide credit crunch has also severely crippled the U.S. automobile industry and threatens its suppliers as well. Despite Congress' speed in delivering a \$700 billion rescue package to the Treasury Department, the taxpayer money given to Wall Street has yet to ease credit or stop the downward spiral in consumer confidence and the economy.

The auto industry and its suppliers are critical to both U.S. employment and the U.S. industrial base. Over three million American men and women are currently in jobs dependent on the industry's survival. These include autoworkers, auto dealers, and suppliers such as steel, tire, glass and component parts. This hemorrhaging of jobs will only lead to additional pressure on a severely weakened economy.

The hundreds of thousands of workers represented by the United Autoworkers (UAW) employed at GM, Ford and Chrysler have also done their part to try to keep their companies profitable, making substantial wage and benefit concessions both in 2005 and 2007, putting them on a level playing-field with foreign transplant operations.

The auto package is also supplemented with an urgently needed seven-week extension of unemployment benefits for those who have run out and the additional 13 weeks for high unemployment states.

The USW also applauds introduction of the Reid/Byrd Economic Recovery Act of 2008 and strongly urges your support for this much needed stimulus package to deliver relief to Main Street through additional aid to states and consumers while recognizing the vital importance of American manufacturing as an engine of economic and job growth with a well funded and broad infrastructure investment package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo W. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "L".

Leo W. Gerard  
International Director

LWG/ctl