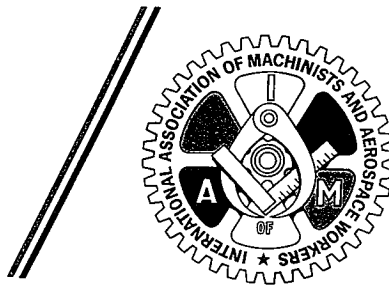


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

GL2 - Legislative

December 9, 2008

Subj: Auto Rescue

Dear Senator:

Last week's report from the Labor Department detailing the loss of 533,000 jobs in November, the worst month for job losses since 1974, highlighted the fragility of our Nation's economy and the terrible depth of the current recession. 85,000 of the lost jobs were in the high paying manufacturing sector. **The November jobs report reinforces the urgent necessity of providing bridge loans to the U.S. automobile industry.**

Hit hard by the economic down turn and credit crisis, all automobile companies, both foreign and domestic have suffered steep downturns in sales. Toyota, for example, saw its U.S. sales drop by 34 percent from a year ago. Countries from China to Europe are stepping up and providing financial support to their domestic automobile industry because of its economic importance.

In the U.S., the significance of the auto industry cannot be understated. According to a recent report by the Economic Policy Institute, more than three million American jobs are at risk if the Detroit based auto companies are forced to shutdown. Highly integrated throughout the economy, the U.S. automobile industry has an impact far beyond manufacturing and affects every region of our country.

While much has been made of the behavior of auto company executives, bankruptcy in the automobile industry would have a detrimental impact on millions of ordinary Americans. Besides the loss of jobs for workers at assembly plants, parts suppliers, and dealerships; revenues to state and local governments would take a big drop, forcing a severe reduction in governmental services just when they are needed the most. Over a million retirees and their families could lose pensions and health insurance. In short, the worst recession since World War II will be deeper, longer, and more painful if the auto companies are forced to declare bankruptcy and as many as 3.2 million people lose their livelihood.

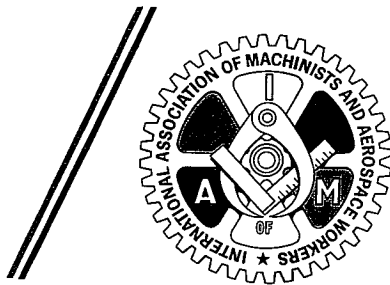
**Now is the time for Congress to act. I urge you in the strongest terms to provide the critical bridge financing for our auto industry. Too much is at stake to do otherwise.**

If you have questions, please contact Legislative and Political Action Director Matthew McKinnon at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger  
International President

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