



80,000+ U.S. Auto Employees Petition Congress in Support of Trade Policies that Bolster American Jobs

Hourly, Salaried Workers Raise Serious Concerns About Japan's Entry Into The Trans-Pacific Partnership.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More than 80,000 hourly and salaried U.S. auto workers are making their voices heard on Capitol Hill, raising very serious concerns about the impact Japan's entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) will have on American jobs and the economy.

Through petitions, that will begin arriving today, tens of thousands of hourly and salaried employees at Chrysler, Ford and General Motors urged Congress to strongly oppose completing the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with Japan at this time unless currency disciplines and non-tariff barriers are addressed. Currently, Japan has the most closed automotive market in the world and continues to manipulate its currency to unfairly subsidize Japanese automakers.

Individual auto workers petitioned members of Congress to “support me and my job by saying no to Japan’s closed market and currency manipulation.”

“To avoid locking in one-way trade and rewarding currency manipulation, the TPP must require Japan to fully open its market to competition and include strong and enforceable currency rules to prevent subsidies for Japanese automakers,” said Matt Blunt, President of American Automotive Policy Council. “We are urging Congress to work together with the Administration to successfully push forward these critical reforms before completing a trade agreement with Japan.”

“Domestic manufacturing has long been the foundation of a strong middle class, and the automobile industry is the one of the most critical for U.S. manufacturing. The renewed American automotive industry is now America’s No. 1 export sector and Chrysler, Ford and General Motors employ 2 of 3 American auto workers. The Obama administration, American workers and retirees, and the U.S. automotive industry made tough choices and sacrifices to make this turnaround possible,” said President King. “The UAW is concerned that all of this great progress could be threatened by Japan’s entry into TPP. That is why tens of thousands of our members are asking Congress to say ‘no’ to Japan’s bad trade practices.”

Trade agreements are negotiated by the Executive Branch, but Congress will have an up or down vote on the trade pact once it is fully negotiated. The goal of the petitions is to underscore to Congress that Japan must fully open its market and end its currency manipulation that gives an unfair subsidy to Japanese automakers.

The American auto industry, its suppliers and dealers have employees in all 50 states.

For more information, please visit AAPC at: <http://americanautocouncil.org/tpp> or read the UAW position paper: <http://www.uaw.org/articles/uaw-statement-japan%E2%80%99s-inclusion-trans-pacific-partnership-tpp>

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