



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 W. RANDOLPH, SUITE 16-100
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

PAT QUINN
GOVERNOR

November 4, 2011

President Barack Obama
United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

It has come to our attention that Japan is expected to soon request participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement negotiations with the United States and eight other Asia-Pacific countries. While we welcome the significant trade opportunities that come with adding the world's third largest economy to the agreement, we also feel it is important to draw attention to Japanese policies that have resulted in a Japanese auto market historically closed to vehicles made in the United States.

Japan has been a long-time friend and ally to the United States and to Illinois. Many Japanese companies have made significant investments in our state, and we cannot overstate the value of its close partnership in our economic growth and development. With this partnership in mind, however, we believe it is fair to focus attention on Japanese automotive policy that has limited import of foreign automobiles and resulted in an automotive market that is closed relative to those in the U.S. and in other developed nations.

The automotive industry, a cornerstone of America's manufacturing sector, is at the forefront of the current economic recovery. American automakers are adding billions of dollars in American manufacturing investment, exporting more than any other industrial sector, and creating tens of thousands of American jobs. Today, thanks to open trade, investment and distribution policies in the United States, America's automotive industry - as exemplified by Illinois - is a competitive, productive mix of both domestic and foreign automakers.

We think it is important, therefore, that the TPP agreement avoid putting current and future auto investment and auto industry jobs in the United States at an unfair disadvantage.

To ensure a fair and level playing field as a pre-requisite for participation in the TPP negotiations, we urge the Administration to seek a clear commitment from Japan to open its domestic automotive market to U.S.-made autos prior to its inclusion in the TPP agreement.

This type of fundamental parity in trade should be seen as a necessary foundation upon which to build a future TPP free trade agreement that will see lasting benefits to all parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Quinn
Governor