



Gov. Blunt Explains Why Japan Should not be Included in the TPP and the Need for Strong Currency Manipulation Rules

LEESBURG, VIRGINIA – Governor Matt Blunt, President of the American Automotive Policy Council, gave a presentation to Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiators on Sunday outlining why Japan should not be included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership at this time. Governor Blunt also added his support for including strong currency manipulation rules in the agreement.

“The Trans-Pacific Partnership will be one of the most significant free trade agreements for the United States and its trade partners throughout the Pacific Rim,” said Governor Blunt. “It is critical that the negotiating countries work together to quickly conclude the trade agreement in order to open markets and increase competition.” Adding that, “Steps need to be taken to guarantee strong currency manipulation rules are included to uphold the objective of achieving a modern, 21st century agreement.”

The meeting of TPP stakeholders in Leesburg was held during the 14th round of negotiations to establish a new free trade agreement. Governor Blunt presented the views of the American Automotive Policy Council, which represents the public policy interests of Chrysler, Ford and General Motors.

“Japan is one of America’s most important strategic allies, however it is also a nation that manipulates its currency to boost its own exports at the expense of other nations, especially the United States,” Governor Blunt said. “With the most closed auto market in the developed world, Japan’s non-tariff barriers to U.S. automotive exports are responsible for 70 percent of the total U.S. bilateral trade deficit with Japan. Including Japan in the Trans-Pacific Partnership with its current policies in place will undo the work the negotiators have completed to create a modern, transparent agreement and would endanger over 90,000 American jobs. The TPP should be completed as soon as possible without Japan’s involvement at this time.”

Governor Blunt said the AAPC fully supports the negotiations proceeding without the inclusion of Japan, noting that the agreement will open new markets in a variety of industries for all the member nations. He highlighted the potential of Malaysia to create new economic opportunities for the American auto industry, stressing the need to eliminate Malaysian policies that put imports at a huge competitive disadvantage to cars

built in Malaysia.

"Access to the Malaysian automotive market for the U.S. automakers is particularly important and has the potential to create new jobs for American autoworkers," said Governor Blunt. "In order for the principles of the TPP to be met, Malaysia needs to get rid of policies which currently cater to their domestic automakers at the expense of import automakers."

The American Automotive Policy Council, Inc. is a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit trade association that represents the common public policy interests of its member companies: Chrysler Group LLC, Ford Motor Company and General Motors Company.

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