



AAPC Statement: Japan Invited to Join Trans-Pacific Partnership Talks

WASHINGTON, D.C. – American Automotive Policy Council President Matt Blunt issued the following statement today on the President's position welcoming Japan to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations:

"AAPC member companies have supported every free trade agreement the United States has joined, but because Japan is the most closed auto market among developed nations and helps accomplish that through non-tariff measures, including manipulating its currency, Japan cannot be treated like other U.S. trade partners. By artificially weakening its currency, Japan enjoys a huge unfair advantage for their exports while impairing U.S. exports to Japan. That translates into lost jobs for American workers. We're for free trade, but it must be fair trade too.

"Japan's weakening of the yen by 27 percent since last October 1, 2012 has consequences beyond the U.S. economy. This is why Japan's actions have been widely criticized by independent groups and world leaders internationally, and threaten to spark a currency war. This is why allowing Japan to join the TPP at this time risks unraveling the entire free trade agreement and will certainly delay its completion.

"After all the sacrifices made by taxpayers, autoworkers, dealers, suppliers, and other stakeholders that resulted in a necessary restructuring of the American auto industry, it is stunning that the U.S. government would endorse a trade policy that puts the industry at a competitive disadvantage and comes at the cost of American auto jobs. Furthermore, that policy undermines the fundamental goal of the TPP to create a standard for fair and open trade for all partners. Japan is clearly not interested in adhering to those standards, and we urge the Administration to reconsider its position."

The American Automotive Policy Council, Inc. (AAPC) is a Washington, D.C. 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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