

Barack Obama

July 18, 2008

Dear UAW Brothers and Sisters,

When a mainstay of the American economy is forced to make a restructuring decision like the one General Motors announced this week, it is a sober reminder of the difficult economic times we're facing and of why we need change and a new direction in Washington.

I stood with you on Tuesday and I stand with you now. I am steadfast in my commitment to the auto industry, to American jobs and to America's working families. America cannot truly prosper unless Michigan prospers.

Given the news this week I wanted to write to you and share some of the steps I will take as President to ease the burden on the workers and families who are the backbone of the auto industry and to prepare us to move forward together.

We have the best workers and best companies in the world, but as we ask you to partner with us to help make America energy independent, we must invest in giving you the tools to succeed. We must also make sure that our workers are not left behind as the auto industry grows and changes. And that starts by providing families with immediate relief from rising gas and food prices. I support a \$50 billion second economic stimulus package that will put energy rebate checks in the hands of the people who need them, help families struggling to meet their mortgage payments stay in their homes, and give states like Michigan support so they don't have to cut back on vital services.

We also have to help the auto industry meet the challenges of a 21st century economy. To start, we should be providing immediate funding for the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program (ATVMIP), which offers low interest loans for automakers to help make immediate investments in retooling their plants. And as President, I will invest \$150 billion in clean energy to help create the fuel-efficient cars and alternative sources of energy that will jumpstart a green economy and help free this nation from the tyranny of oil. By providing tax credits and loan guarantees for our automakers and by expanding consumer tax incentives for ultra-efficient vehicles, I will provide the real solutions necessary to help this industry compete and win in the global economy. We need to make sure our auto makers are ready to build these next generation vehicles right here in the United States, which is exactly what my energy plan will do.



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I also have a broader agenda to strengthen hardworking families. I will put a \$1,000 middle-class tax cut into the pockets of 95% of workers and their families. And we'll end tax cuts for companies that ship jobs overseas and give them to companies that create good jobs here at home.

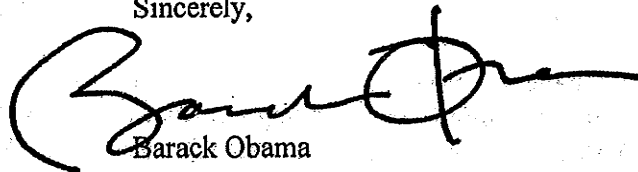
I will extend Trade Adjustment Assistance to service industry workers, and create education accounts to help workers retrain and provide retraining assistance for vulnerable workers before they lose their jobs. And I will double funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership so its training centers can continue to bolster the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers.

My health care plan will work with employers to make it easier for them to provide their employees benefits and will provide quality, affordable, and portable health insurance to any American who wants it, saving a typical family up to \$2500 a year.

I have complete confidence that GM and our other auto companies will adapt and thrive in the 21st century economy if we bring real change to Washington and forge a true partnership together. And I am fully committed to making sure that the working men and women of the auto industry receive the support and respect they deserve as the industry changes to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

My heart goes out to all the workers and families in Michigan and across the country who have been affected by turbulence in the auto industry over the years – including those who learned just this week of further job cuts. You deserve a leader in the White House who not only understands the difficulties you and your families face, but who will stand up for you every single day. That's exactly what I'll do as your President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "Barack Obama".

Barack Obama