



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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URGENT ACTION ALERT

DATE: December 10, 2008
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

NAACP Strongly Supports Federal Assistance to American Auto Makers

FAILURE OF THE BIG THREE AUTO MANUFACTURERS COULD DEVASTATE THE U.S. ECONOMY AND AMERICAN FAMILIES

THE ISSUE:

While estimates may vary, the tremendous impact of a major contraction involving one or more of the Detroit Three automakers in terms of jobs, vendors, small businesses, compensation and tax revenues would lead to direct and indirect job losses of 2.5 million to 3 million people in 2009. There can be no debate that this would be devastating to the American economy.

A meltdown in the automotive sector would be especially damaging for African Americans, in both the number and quality of jobs at stake. African Americans hold a greater share of jobs in the auto manufacturing sector than their percentage of the overall population. The average wage African Americans are paid for those solid middle-class auto jobs - about \$17 per hour - is much better than their average wage economy-wide. Furthermore, since the end of World War II, manufacturing jobs, particularly unionized jobs in the auto industry, have been an important source of well-paid employment for African Americans and a key route for many African American families to enter the middle class; the fall of the auto industry would be particularly devastating to African Americans and our aspirations to improve ourselves and our families' economic status. It would also have a devastating impact on those who have retired from the automobile manufacturing sector and their families; an estimated one million people who worked hard most of their lives and depend on their pensions and their health benefits to survive.

Because of the importance of the U.S. auto industry to the entire economy, a collapse of the Detroit-based auto companies would aggravate the current economic recession, sending production and consumer spending into a deeper tailspin while unemployment spirals higher. Revenues to the federal, state and local governments would be reduced, forcing them to curtail vital social services at a time when they are most needed.

Under the proposed legislation, the government would extend up to \$15 billion in emergency loans to the American auto makers. The proposal also calls for President Bush to name a "car czar" to manage a vast restructuring of the firms and restore them to profitability. Under the legislation, the companies would be required to submit a detailed plan for restructuring by March 31, 2009. Finally, under the plan, bonuses would be prohibited for the 25 most highly paid employees of each company.

[More...](#)

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact your Representative and both your Senators **and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE PLAN TO SAVE THE AMERICAN AUTO INDUSTRY.** To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

~~✓ **Write a Letter**~~

~~To write letters to your Senators, send them to:~~

~~The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510~~

~~To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:~~

~~The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515~~

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

**No time
to send a
letter
through
the mail!
Call, fax
or e-mail
today!**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative's offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses. To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on "*Write Your Representative*" (on the left hand side, just under "find your Representative"). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- The tremendous impact of a major contraction involving one or more of the Detroit Three automakers in terms of jobs, compensation and tax revenues would lead as many as 3 million people losing their jobs in 2009
- A meltdown in the automotive sector would be especially damaging for African Americans, in both the number and quality of jobs at stake. African Americans hold a greater share of jobs in the auto manufacturing sector than their percentage of the overall population.
- Since the end of World War II, manufacturing jobs, particularly unionized jobs in the auto industry, have been an important source of well-paid employment for African Americans and a key route for many African American families to enter the middle class; the fall of the auto industry would be particularly devastating to African Americans and our aspirations to improve ourselves and our families' economic status.
- We urge the Congress in the strongest possible terms to assist U.S. auto makers and the hard working Americans on their success.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

**RE: SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO HELP AMERICAN
AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY AND WORKERS**

Dear Senator / Representative _____;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support legislation to help the ailing American automobile manufacturers. A meltdown in the automotive sector would be especially damaging to African Americans and other hard-working Americans, in both the number and quality of jobs at stake. African Americans hold a greater share of jobs in the auto manufacturing sector than their percentage of the overall population. Furthermore, the average wage African Americans are paid for those solid middle-class auto jobs - about \$17 per hour along with health care, pension and other important benefits - is a true living wage and as such is much better than their average wage economy-wide.

While estimates may vary, the tremendous impact of a major contraction involving one or more of the Detroit Three automakers in terms of jobs, compensation and tax revenues would lead to direct and indirect job losses of 2.5 million to 3 million people in 2009. There can be no debate that this would be devastating to the American economy. Furthermore, since the end of World War II, manufacturing jobs, particularly unionized jobs in the auto industry, have been an important source of well-paid employment for African Americans and a key route for many African American families to enter the middle class. The fall of the auto industry would be particularly devastating on tens of thousands of African Americans and our aspirations to improve ourselves and our families' economic status. It would also have a devastating impact on those who have retired from the automobile manufacturing sector and their families; an estimated one million people who worked hard most of their lives and depend on their pensions and their health benefits to survive.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns; please contact me soon to let me know what you are going to do and what I can do to help this vital American industry.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

*Remember to contact your
Representative and BOTH
your Senators.*