

December 8, 2008

Dear Senator:

The Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO (DPE), respectfully urges that you vote for vitally important legislation to provide emergency bridge loans to domestic auto makers.

DPE is a coalition of 24 national unions that does *not* include the United Auto Workers (UAW). Together the unions affiliated with DPE represent over four million professional and technical workers in more than 300 occupations. Among them are workers in engineering, science, and information technology; the arts, entertainment, and media; education and information resources; health care; and public administration. The DPE is the largest association of professional and technical workers in the United States.

DPE submits this letter out of a profound sense that *the need for Congressional action is as urgent as it is imperative*. On Friday, the news included the largest one-month loss of U.S. jobs in decades. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) estimated this month that the collapse of General Motors (GM) alone could cost more than 900,000 jobs. If GM, Ford, and Chrysler fail, the devastation rises to more than 2.1 million jobs. A total industry shutdown will bring the loss to more than 3.3 million jobs. See *When Giants Fall: Shutdown of one or more U.S. automakers could eliminate up to 3.3 million U.S. jobs* by Robert E. Scott (EPI Briefing Paper #227, December 3, 2008; www.epi.org).

Inaction could thus convert a grim recession into a prolonged and painful depression. The economic casualties would include not only automakers and workers, but suppliers, dealers, retirees, and the people whose jobs depend on the spending that incomes from the domestic auto companies make possible.

In testimony before Congress last week, UAW President Ron Gettelfinger recognized the necessity of sacrifices by all stakeholders, including workers, retirees, and the UAW, as a prerequisite to Congressional action. He supported stringent conditions on an emergency bridge loan, including limits on executive compensation, prohibiting dividends, providing the federal government with an equity stake to protect taxpayers, and creating governmental oversight; and committed the UAW to working with Congress to fashion any other necessary accountability.

The time for action is now. DPE and its affiliated unions urgently request your vote and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Almeida
President