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Vermont



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Wisconsin

May 18, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader,  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Congressman Boehner, Majority Leader Reid, and Senator McConnell:

The automotive industry continues to be one of the most important sectors of the U.S. economy in spite of the difficult economic environment. It represents the country's largest manufacturing industry, generating almost 4 percent of U.S. gross domestic product and one out of every 10 U.S. jobs. Importantly, the automotive industry affects dealers, suppliers and small businesses in every state.

Auto sales have declined by more than 40 percent compared to sales levels of the past few years. Not since 1955 have auto sales been in such a decline. This dramatic sales decline is affecting auto companies and communities across the country. Fewer sales by dealers lead to cuts in auto production, fewer parts from suppliers, less work for employees who, in turn, buy fewer goods from local businesses. Auto manufacturing builds strong communities when the industry is healthy; when automakers are ailing, there is a ripple effect through the economy.

Drawing consumers back into the marketplace is critical. Bipartisan legislation that provides consumers with financial incentives to recycle older vehicles and replace them with new, cleaner and more fuel-efficient vehicles will stimulate consumer demand. President Obama has urged Congress to move forward on "fleet modernization," and there are successful programs under way across the globe.

A fleet modernization measure would provide a boost to auto sales and help preserve American jobs tied to the automotive industry. Goldman Sachs estimates that the various proposals being considered by Congress could boost vehicle demand by 500,000 to 1.5 million over the course of the year.

In addition, a fleet modernization bill will help America get greener faster. Vehicles today are dramatically cleaner, producing 99 percent fewer smog-forming emissions than many older vehicles still in use. By encouraging consumers to recycle less fuel-efficient vehicles and replace them with higher mileage ones, the legislation would make a major contribution to reducing oil consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

We urge the U.S. Congress to act quickly to collaborate and pass a fleet modernization bill. As stewards of the economies and environment of our respective states, we believe this legislation is a win for consumers, the economy and the environment.

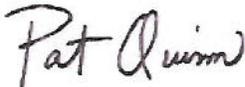
Sincerely,



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm  
Michigan



Governor Bill Ritter Jr.  
Colorado



Governor Pat Quinn  
Illinois



Governor Steven L. Beshear  
Kentucky



Governor Brad Henry  
Oklahoma



Governor Joe Manchin III  
West Virginia



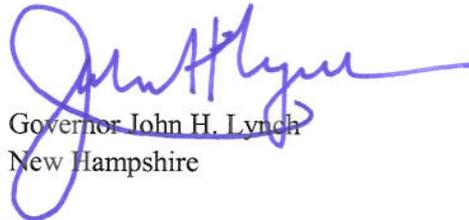
Governor Ted Strickland  
Ohio



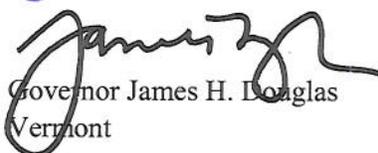
Governor Jack Markell  
Delaware



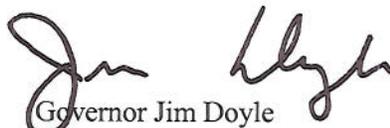
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Kansas



Governor John H. Lynch  
New Hampshire



Governor James H. Douglas  
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