



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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Dear Representative,

Congressional leaders and President Bush are reportedly close to an agreement on a legislative package that would provide bridge loans to the U.S. auto industry. As President of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), representing upwards of 80,000 workers in the United States and Canada, I would like to urge you to support this critically important legislation.

IFPTE is obviously very concerned with the devastating impact that a collapse of the industry could have on the over 190,000 workers at GM, Chrysler and Ford, not to mention the millions of other workers in industries that are dependent on the domestic car industry. Some of the biggest customers of the car manufactures in industries such as glass, tires, computers, steel, technology and construction, just to name a few, will face dire circumstances if the big three manufacturers are left to fold.

During his appearances before Congress last week, United Auto Workers (UAW) President Ron Gettelfinger did a terrific job in representing the importance of Congressional assistance to the auto industry workforce, as well as to millions of workers not employed by the automakers. President Gettelfinger's inspiring remarks came on the heels of a December 3<sup>rd</sup> Economic Policy Institute (EPI) report, *When Giants Fall*, predicting that the fall of the U.S. auto industry and its suppliers could, "eliminate up to 3.3 million U.S. jobs within the next year." Obviously, the EPI report lays out a very grim situation for U.S. workers, and for our already suffering economy.

Additional ramifications of not passing this package will be felt in all sectors of the workforce and in all fifty states. State government revenues will decrease drastically, putting even more pressure on tax strapped states to decrease their public workforces and slash critical state services. Even public education would not be spared. In addition, the burden this would put on the Federal government could be in the hundreds of billions. Social Security, corporate and individual tax collection would take a huge hit, while the demand for food, health and other assistance would spike.

We at IFPTE believe that Congress should pass a package that will protect auto industry workers, along with workers in other industries in all fifty states, from being the victims of the reckless and shortsighted business practices of the auto manufacturers. With stiff and aggressive government oversight, along an innovative and inspired business plan, the U.S. auto industry can be successful. After all, the skilled and talented workforce is already in place.

Please support this package. It is critical for over 3 million workers, and for the U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,  
President