

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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June 8, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to express our concerns about General Motors' and Chrysler's decision to close profitable automobile dealerships across the country, and urge you to ask GM and Chrysler to delay final action on proposed closures pending further review of the decision to consolidate dealerships and the process by which Chrysler and GM selected the dealerships to close.

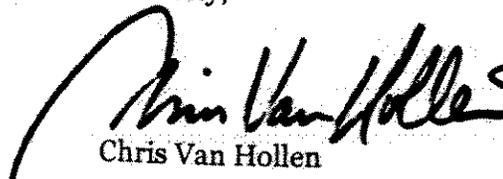
Closing these dealerships will put over 100,000 jobs at risk at a time when our country is shedding jobs at an alarming rate. We also question the criteria being used to determine which dealerships should be closed and the fundamental fairness involved in this effort. It is our view that the market should make these decisions rather than leaving it up to the manufacturers whose poor leadership contributed to their demise. Furthermore, we believe car dealers will be key players in any effort to revive the American auto industry.

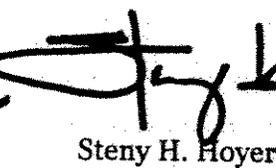
We believe the dealerships are one of the auto industry's key sources of strength and the manufacturers should continue to honor their agreements and contracts. The dealerships, and their more than 1 million employees, form personal relationships with customers that often contribute to brand loyalty and will be key to General Motors' and Chrysler's recovery following this economic downturn. While we understand the desire to reduce the number of unprofitable dealerships, no one has yet sufficiently explained the need to close profitable dealerships.

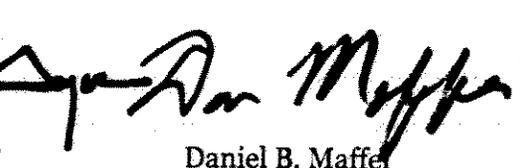
We recognize that efforts by your Auto Task Force prevented the total liquidation of General Motors and Chrysler, as well as their dealership networks. We commend your efforts to help these businesses survive these challenging economic times. However, we are concerned that manufacturers are closing profitable dealerships to circumvent current contracts which could require expensive buy-outs under normal conditions. We are also concerned about allegations that dealers that have previously stood up for their rights against the manufacturers are being targeted by these closures. We believe that the forced closures of profitable dealerships needs to be scrutinized by the Task Force to prevent additional future financial losses to General Motors and Chrysler and job losses across the United States.

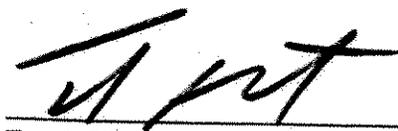
We may consider legislative proposals to ensure that dealers and their employees are treated fairly, and we look forward to your timely response.

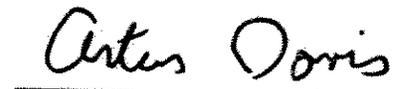
Sincerely,

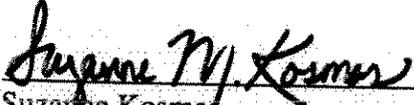
  
Chris Van Hollen

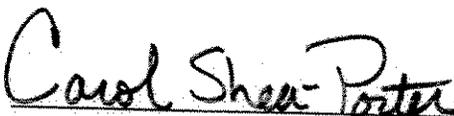
  
Steny H. Hoyer

  
Daniel B. Maffei

  
Frank Kratovil

  
Artur Davis

  
Suzanne Kosmas

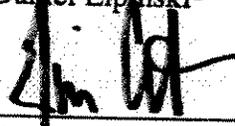
  
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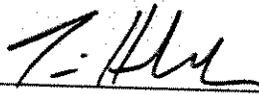
  
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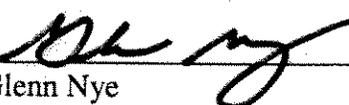
  
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Daniel Lipinski

  
Mary Jo Kilroy

  
Jim Costa

  
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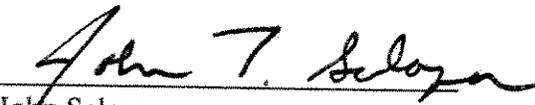
  
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Michael Arcuri

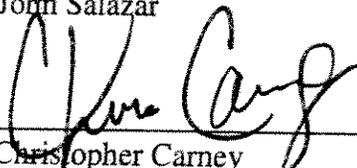
  
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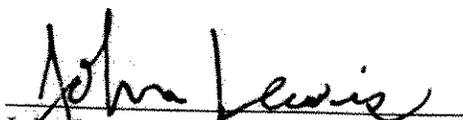
  
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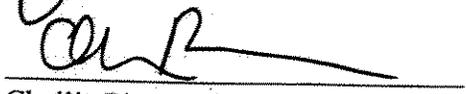
  
Phil Hare

  
John Salazar

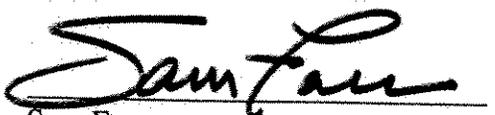
  
Andre Carson

  
Christopher Carney

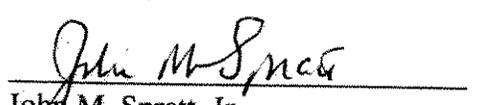
  
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Chellie Pingree

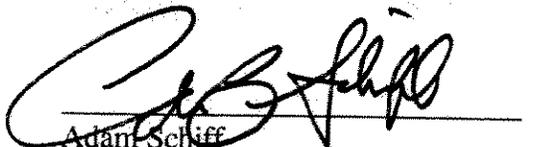
  
Bob Etheridge

  
Sam Farr

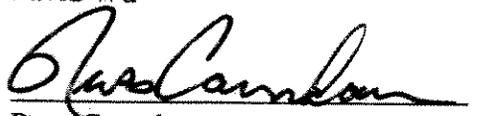
  
Steve Kagen

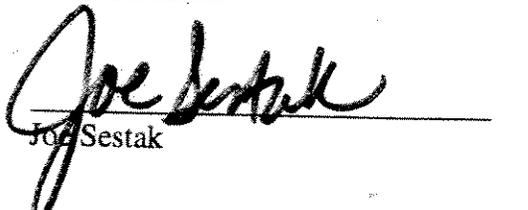
  
John M. Spratt, Jr.

  
Ron Klein

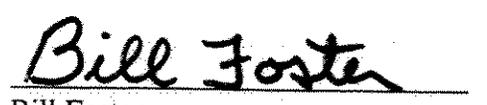
  
Adam Schiff

  
David Wu

  
Russ Carnahan

  
Joe Sestak

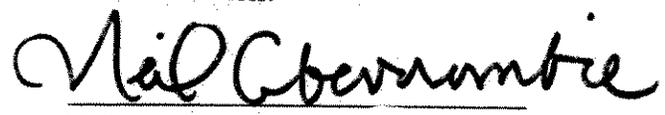
  
Ron Kind

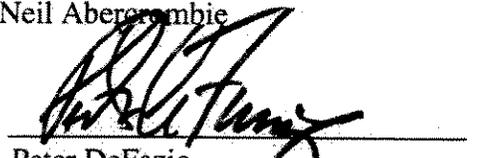
  
Bill Foster

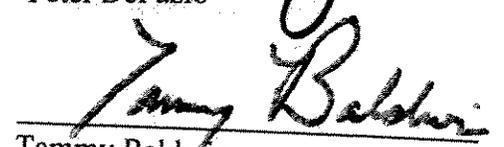
  
Peter Welch

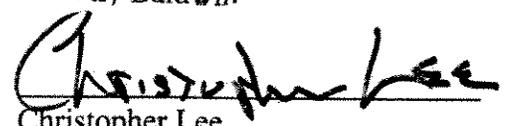
  
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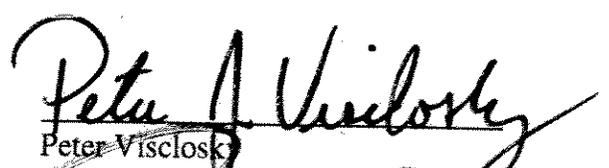
  
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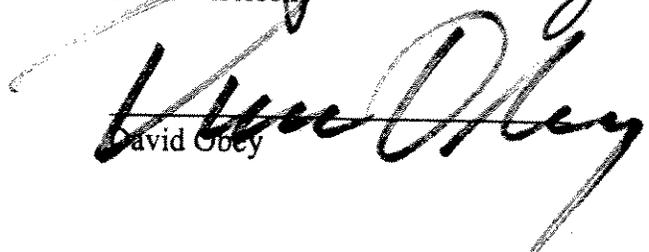
  
Neil Abernethy

  
Peter DeFazio

  
Tammy Baldwin

  
Christopher Lee

  
Peter Visclosky

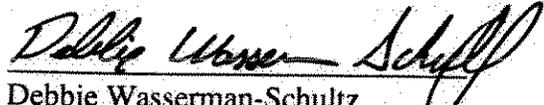
  
David Obey

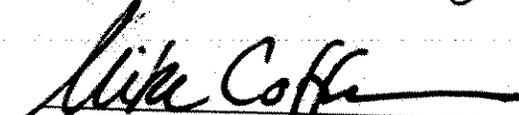
  
Paul W. Hodes

  
Corrine Brown

  
David Loebsock

  
Larry Kissell

  
Debbie Wasserman-Schultz

  
Mike Coffman

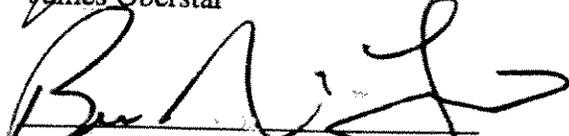
  
Gabrielle Giffords

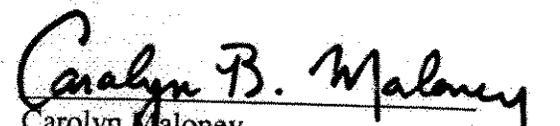
  
Robert Brady

  
Michael Doyle

  
Michael McMahon

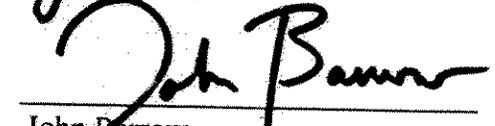
  
James Oberstar

  
Ben Ray Lujan

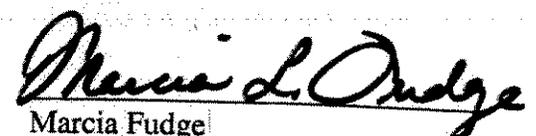
  
Carolyn Maloney

  
Bill Pascrell

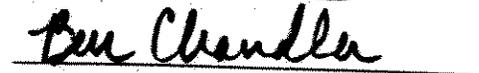
  
John Sarbanes

  
John Barrow

  
Keith Ellison

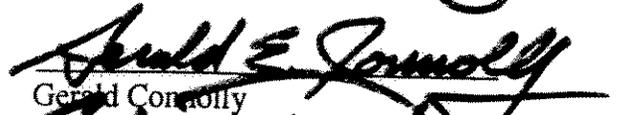
  
Marcia Fudge

  
Kathleen Dahlkemper

  
Ben Chandler

  
Ed Perlmutter

  
Bruce Braley

  
Gerald Conolly

  
Steve Driehaus

*Leonard L. Boswell*

Leonard Boswell

*Debbie Halvorson*

Deborah Halvorson

*Loretta Sanchez*

Loretta Sanchez

*Joseph Crowler*

Joseph Crowler

*John B. Larson*

John Larson

*Dina Titus*

Dina Titus

*Donna F. Edwards*

Donna F. Edwards

*Jesse L. Jackson*

Jesse L. Jackson

*Brian Higgins*

Brian Higgins

*Maurice Hinchey*

Maurice Hinchey

*Bobby Rush*

Bobby Rush

*Charles Wilson*

Charles Wilson

*Jerry Costello*

Jerry Costello

*Baron P. Hill*

Baron P. Hill

*John Conyers, Jr.*

John Conyers, Jr.

*Marion Berry*

Marion Berry

*Paul Tonko*

Paul Tonko

*Ciro D. Rodriguez*

Ciro D. Rodriguez

*Brian Baird*

Brian Baird

*Charlie Melancon*

Charlie Melancon

*Al Green*

Al Green

*G. K. Butterfield*

G. K. Butterfield

Collin Peterson

Jim Matheson

Joseph Cao

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger

Norm Dicks

Mike Ross

John Bocieri

Keith Ellison

Martin Heinrich

Michael Michaud

William Delahunt

Dan Burton

Dennis Kucinich

Steve LaTourette

Gene Green

Roscoe Bartlett

Solomon P. Ortiz

Nick Rahall, II

Joe Baca

Steven Rothman

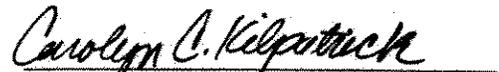
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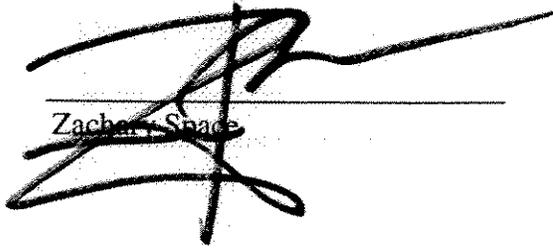
Rosa DeLauro

James P. Moran

Jane Harman

  
Eric Massa

  
Carolyn Kilpatrick

  
Zachary Spade