

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 26, 2023

Dear Mr. Farley, Ms. Barra, and Mr. Tavares:

As Members of the United States Senate who proudly represent the state with the greatest auto production in the nation, we urge your companies to negotiate in good faith with the United Auto Workers (UAW) as contract negotiations continue between the UAW and Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis. We support the right of UAW workers to collectively bargain and ask that you reach a deal that fairly addresses wages, health care, retirement, and job security.

As you know, these contract negotiations have implications for roughly 383,000 UAW members across the country, including thousands of Michigan autoworkers. UAW workers have powered the U.S. automotive industry – and the U.S. manufacturing sector – for a century. During the financial crisis in 2008, Congress stepped in to support automotive companies with the understanding that this industry is essential to our economy and national identity. Without American autoworkers, the U.S. automotive industry would not have become the beating heart of the U.S. industrial revolution.

The UAW helped create our middle class, and we fully support the union's efforts to advocate for equitable wages and benefits. In a post-COVID-19 workforce, we recognize that fair and competitive wages are necessary for the welfare and dignity of workers and for the continued strength of this vital U.S. industry.

These negotiations are occurring at a critical inflection point for the automotive industry. Signed into law on August 16, 2022, the historic Inflation Reduction Act represents the most significant clean energy and climate change legislation advanced by Congress in our country's history. Congress has invested heavily in the electric vehicle transition, and we must ensure that America leads in building the vehicles of the future. In order for the electric vehicle transition to be successful, UAW workers cannot be left behind. We believe the electric vehicle transition will not and cannot come at the expense of good-paying jobs or workers' ability to form a union and collectively bargain.

We urge you to negotiate in good faith with the UAW to ensure fair wages, health care, retirement, and job security for workers. We are optimistic that both sides can reach a consensus agreement before existing contracts expire on September 14, 2023. This agreement should build on the U.S. automotive industry's legacy of setting a high standard for workers in all industries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator