



December 14, 2008

## Thank you, Rep. McCotter, for standing up for Detroit

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, has developed a reputation for his soaring oratorical style in the House of Representatives.

His speeches are notable for their obscure historical references, stinging wit, musical allusions and passion.

We have not always agreed with the positions that McCotter has supported with his oratory. But on Wednesday, the 11th District congressman used his eloquence in support of the auto recovery bill and rose to the defense of not just the auto industry but the embattled Detroit region and working men and women everywhere. This was a Class A rhetorical performance.

McCotter had been one of the most ferocious Republican leaders against the bank bailout, something he continues to rail against. He and others were instrumental in defeating an initial bailout bill before a revised version was passed in the Senate and the House. He has been harshly critical of the lack of oversight on how those billions of dollars are being spent and the clueless arrogance of investment bankers.

But, McCotter argues that the auto industry is different. Contrary to its critics, the industry has been restructuring, has been meeting federal CAFE mandates, has been developing better and more energy-efficient cars. They didn't ask for help until they were swamped by the bank disaster. He says that it is the hard-working people of his district and other districts all across America who will suffer if there is no bailout. Small businesses will collapse. Whole towns will be devastated.

He strongly rebukes those who have railed against the UAW for daring to negotiate decent contracts for their members.

"I once spent a freezing winter morning in front of the glass house, the Ford Motor Company corporate headquarters, in Dearborn. All those employees, those UAW members, that people say don't want to work come to work and don't want to perform, don't care about their quality of performance. Well I'll tell you what: They stood out in zero degree temperatures to keep the Wixom plant in my district open. That's how badly they wanted to work. That's how much they cared about the production of those cars. That's how much they love their families," McCotter told his fellow representatives.

Perhaps McCotter's oratory helped move a few votes to win passage of the bailout in the House, where he was one of only 32 Republicans to vote yes.

Whatever the outcome, McCotter deserves a warm thank you from his district.

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