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Michigan reaction to US loan deal for automakers

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AP) — Michigan reaction to the Bush administration's \$17.4 billion rescue plan for the U.S. auto industry:

"This will keep the doors of America's factories open, keep Americans working and prevent the devastating economic consequences for millions of Americans and thousands of businesses that would have resulted from a liquidation of operations by one or more auto companies. ... While we appreciate that President Bush has taken the emergency action needed to help America's auto companies weather the current financial crisis, we are disappointed that he has added unfair conditions singling out workers. These conditions were not included in the bipartisan legislation endorsed by the White House, which passed the House of Representatives and which won support from a majority of senators. ... We will work with the Obama administration and the new Congress to ensure that these unfair conditions are removed as we join in the coming months with all stakeholders to create a viable future for the U.S. auto industry." — United Auto Workers President Ron Gettelfinger

"The loans are a recognition by the administration that the nation's fragile economy simply cannot sustain the human and economic toll of further massive job loss. ... I am grateful that the hardworking men and women of America and these great American companies are getting the fighting chance they deserve to lead the companies and our nation to a successful, oil-free future." — Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm

"Yet while momentarily relieved from the immediate onus of uncertainty regarding their futures, working families in Michigan and America will not be celebrating. We know full well the painful auto industry restructuring we have endured for years will continue in the days, months and, yes, years to come. But just as we have done throughout this immediate trial, we will unite; we will endure; and we will prove the doubters wrong — Republican U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter of Livonia

"The City of Detroit is grateful to President Bush for his support and making money immediately available for our automakers now and again next month. ... While the immediate funding is certainly good news and a step in the right direction, it is not nearly enough to jumpstart America's economy. We look forward to continuing our advocacy on behalf of Detroit and the auto industry." — Democratic Detroit Mayor Kenneth Cockrel Jr.

"While I regret that the automobile manufacturers are in their current, troubled state, exacerbated by our current credit crisis, it is clear that the only way they will survive is with the assistance of a federal loan. ... I hope this will help our nation's auto industry survive and eventually prosper." — Republican U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers of Grand Rapids

"While I applaud President Bush's decision to provide short term loans to the domestic automakers, I have strong concerns about some of the conditions that were placed on these loans. We all want to see the Big 3 restructure and be competitive in the future, but it is irresponsible during a time of economic crisis for the White House to insist that workers take further wage cuts on top of the historic concessions they have already made." — Democratic U.S. Rep. John Dingell of Dearborn