

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

JOHN J. SWEENEY  
PRESIDENT

RICHARD L. TRUMKA  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

ARLENE HOLT BAKER  
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

## **LEGISLATIVE ALERT!**

(202) 637-5057



June 16, 2009

Dear Senator:

This week the Senate is scheduled to take up the conference report for the FY 2009 supplemental appropriations bill. It is our understanding that Senator Gregg may offer a point of order against the fleet modernization provisions of the conference report. The AFL-CIO supports the fleet modernization program and urges you to vote to waive any points of order.

The fleet modernization provisions included in the conference report represent a carefully balanced agreement reached with the Obama administration. The House approved these provisions last week in an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 298-119. Automobile manufacturers (both foreign and domestic), auto dealers, parts suppliers, the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Round Table, as well as the UAW and AFL-CIO, all support these provisions.

The fleet modernization program established by the conference report would give consumers rebates to trade in older less fuel-efficient vehicles and replace them with new higher mile-per-gallon vehicles. This program would reduce oil consumption and greenhouse gas emissions while providing an immediate boost to auto sales, thereby helping dealers, manufacturers, and workers. The program is structured so it would apply to all automakers in a balanced, competitively neutral manner.

These provisions would not undercut existing fuel economy standards. There will still be a requirement that the auto manufacturers' overall fleets comply with the fuel economy standards enacted by Congress in 2007, as well as the much tougher national fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards recently announced by President Obama.

Enacting fleet modernization legislation is the single most important step Congress can take right now to assist the auto industry, including struggling dealers, suppliers, manufacturers, and their workers and retirees. Other countries have adopted similar programs that have provided significant assistance to their auto industries. It is time for the United States to do the same.

The AFL-CIO urges you to vote to waive any point of order that Senator Gregg may offer against the fleet modernization provisions that were included in the conference report on the FY 2009 supplemental appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT