

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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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.

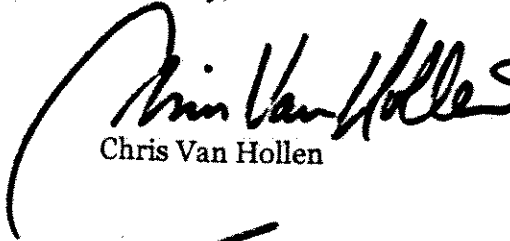
Closing these dealerships will put over 100,000 jobs at risk at a time when our country is shedding jobs at an alarming rate. We also question the criteria being used to determine which dealerships should be closed and the fundamental fairness involved in this effort. It is our view that the market should 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.

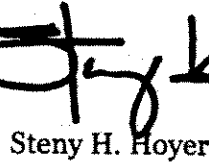
We believe the dealerships are one of the auto industry's key sources of strength and the manufacturers should continue to honor their agreements and contracts. The dealerships, and their more than 1 million employees, form personal relationships with customers that often contribute to brand loyalty 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.

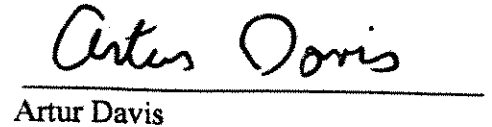
Sincerely,


Chris Van Hollen

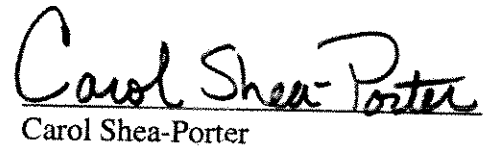

Steny H. Hoyer

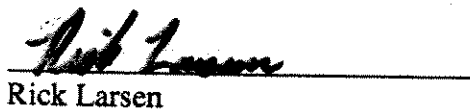

Daniel B. Maffei


Frank Kratovil


Artur Davis

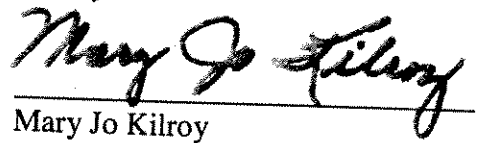

Suzanne Kosmas

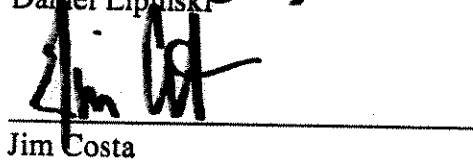

Carol Shea-Porter


Rick Larsen

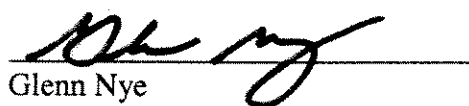

Betty Sutton


Daniel Lipinski


Mary Jo Kilroy

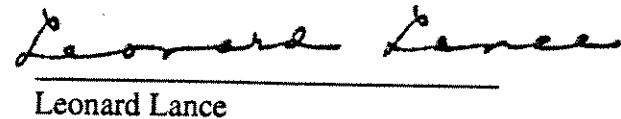

Jim Costa


Tim Holden

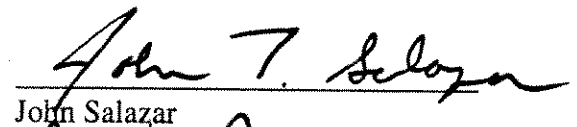

Glenn Nye


Michael Arcuri

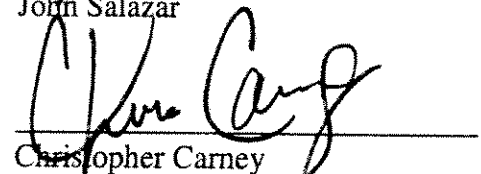

Harry Teague

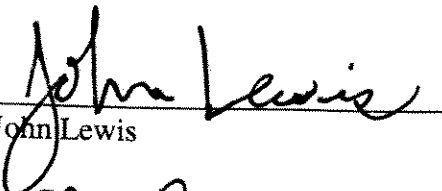

Leonard Lance


Phil Hare


John Salazar

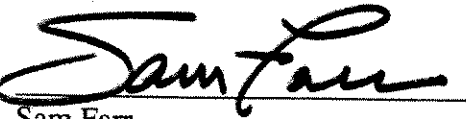

Andre Carson


Christopher Carney



John Lewis


Chellie Pingree



Bob Etheridge



Sam Farr


Steve Kagen

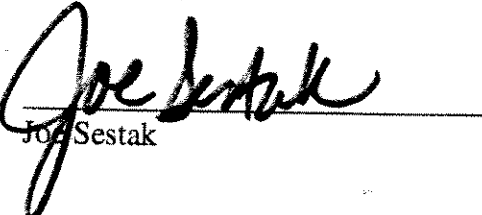

John M. Spratt, Jr.



Ron Klein


Adam Schiff



David Wu


Russ Carnahan


Joe Sestak

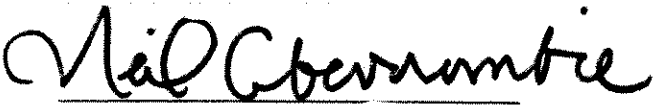

Ron Kind


Bill Foster

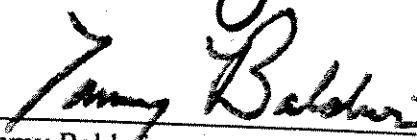

Peter Welch



John Hall

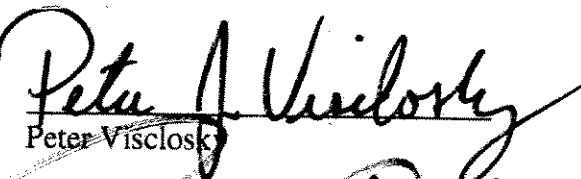

Thomas Perriello

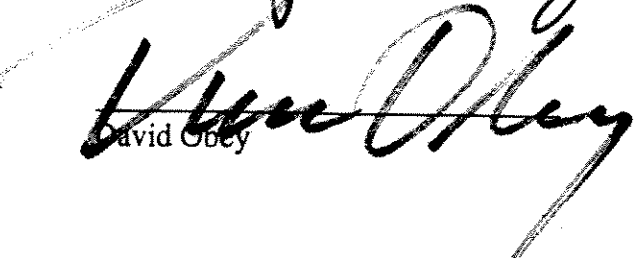

Neil Abernethy



Peter DeFazio



Tammy Baldwin



Christopher Lee

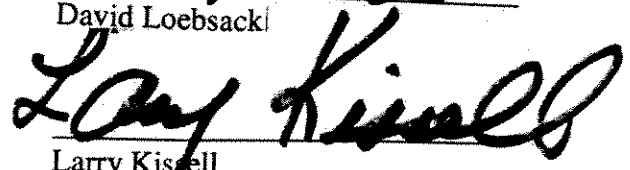

Peter Visclosky

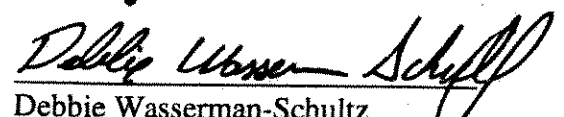

David Obey

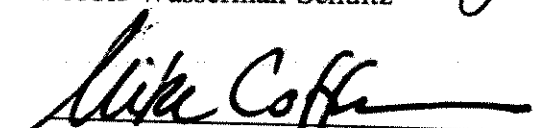

Paul W. Hodes

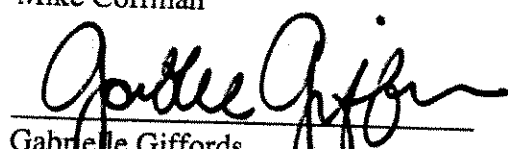

Corrine Brown


David Loebsock

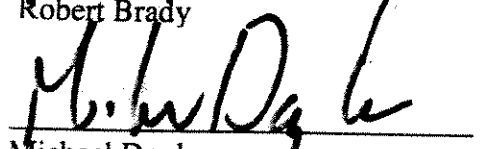

Larry Kissell

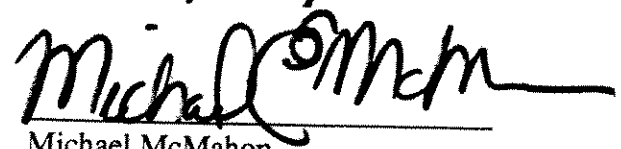

Debbie Wasserman-Schultz

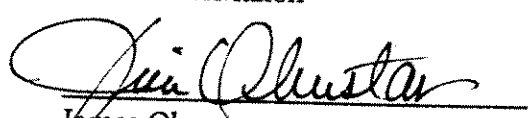

Mike Coffman

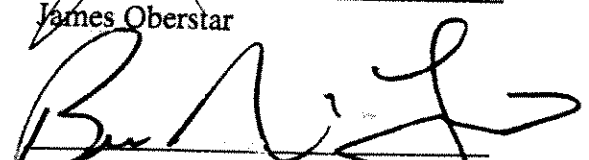

Gabrielle Giffords

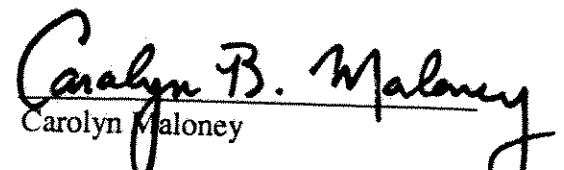

Robert Brady



Michael Doyle

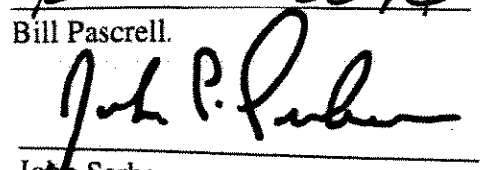

Michael McMahon

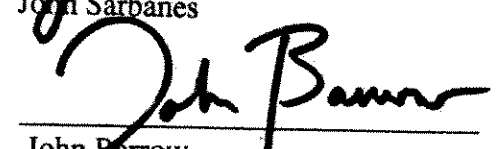

James Oberstar



Ben Ray Lujan

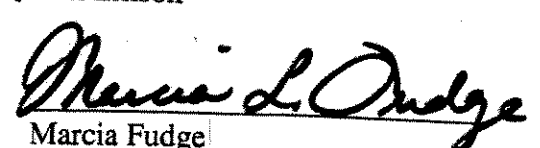

Carolyn B. Maloney

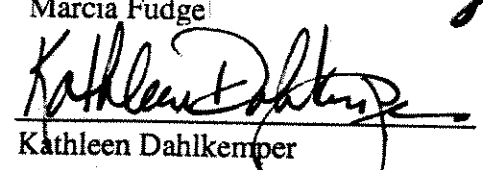

Bill Pascrell

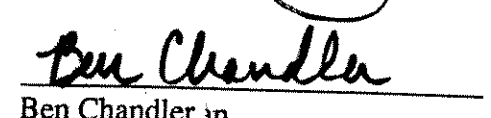

John Sarbanes

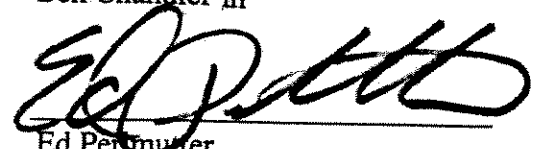

John Barrow



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 Crowley

Joseph Crowley

John 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. F. Butterfield

G. F. Butterfield



Collin Peterson



Jim Matheson



Joseph Cao



C.A. Dutch Ruppberger



Norm Dicks



Mike Ross



John Bocieri



Keith Ellison



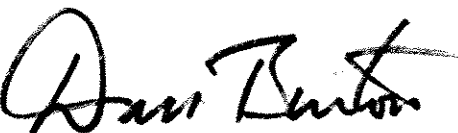
Martin Heinrich



Michael Michaud



William Delahunt



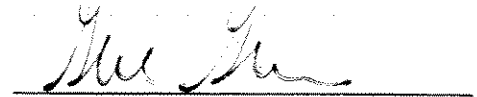
Dan Burton



Dennis Kucinich



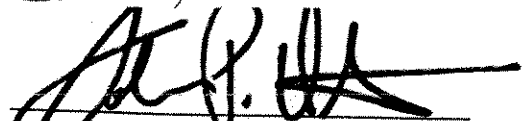
Steve LaTourette



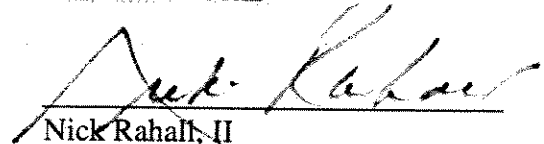
Gene Green



Roscoe Bartlett



Solomon P. Ortiz



Nick Rahall, II



Joe Baca



Steven Rothman



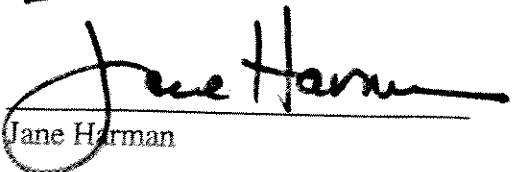
Dennis Moore



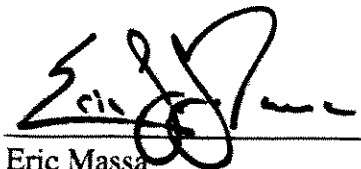
Rosa DeLauro



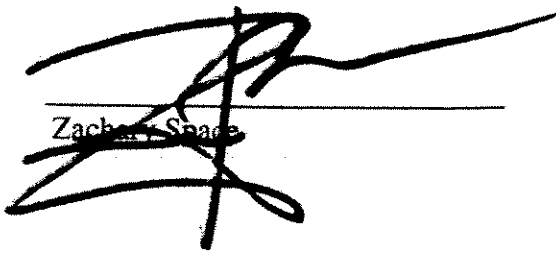
James P. Moran

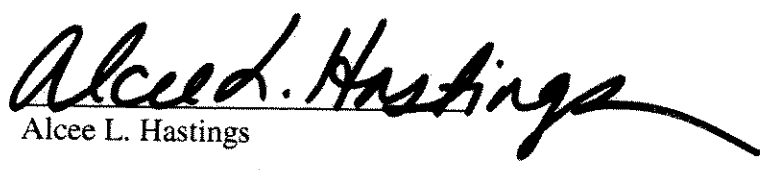


Jane Harman


Eric Massa


Carolyn Kilpatrick


Zachary Spade


Alcee L. Hastings

cc: The Honorable Timothy F. Geithner, The Honorable Hilda L. Solis, Director
Lawrence H. Summers