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FW: Auto Rescue Package/request from Canadian Ambassador (E-mail to John Podesta)

John Podesta

Michael Wilson

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Nye, Alexander

From: Sara Latham <Sara.Latham@ptt.gov> on behalf of John Podesta <John.Podesta@ptt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 11:28 AM
To: 'john.podesta@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: Auto Rescue Package/request from Canadian Ambassador

From: Michael.Wilson@international.gc.ca [mailto:Michael.Wilson@international.gc.ca]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 12:15 PM
To: John Podesta
Subject: Auto Rescue Package/request from Canadian Ambassador

Dear Mr. Podesta,

I am writing to you on the subject of the Rescue Package for the North American Automobile Industry.

As you may be aware, since 1965, the U.S. and Canadian auto industries have been highly integrated both in the assembly of automobiles as well as in parts production. Most of the cars that we sell in Canada are produced in the United States and most of the cars that we assemble in Canada are sold into the United States. Auto parts move back and forth across the border in support of this assembly. Put another way, we don't so much trade in cars, we build them together. Therefore, we believe very strongly that any rescue package for the industry should be based on this fundamental reality.

As a result, the Government of Canada has decided that Canada must be part of the solution to the current auto crisis. We are prepared to commit an amount to support the industry equivalent to our proportionate share of the assembly as part of the program to restructure the industry. In a telephone conversation over the weekend, Prime Minister Harper committed to President Bush that we would be prepared to contribute our proportionate share to the package under consideration.

Because of that, we wish to be part of the oversight and the development of the restructuring mechanism. We wish to be part of the team to develop a package designed to maintain a viable integrated industry with minimal disruption to the existing supply chain.

There will be a team of senior officials from Canada meeting with Treasury officials tomorrow or Wednesday to develop this cooperative plan further. I believe that it would be useful for them to have a dialogue with appropriate members of your Transition Team to support continuing this process seamlessly into the Obama Administration.

I would very much appreciate it if you would give me a call at (202) 682-7700 so that we could make arrangements to put this process into effect.

Your sincerely,

Michael Wilson
Ambassador