

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

September 18, 2008

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Byrd and Ranking Member Cochran:

I write to urge you to include the highest possible fiscally responsible funding for various green jobs programs of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 including Sec. 136, the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program, in appropriations or other legislation moving through Congress. This program was authorized by Congress last year and would provide loans to automobile manufacturers in order to retool facilities and equipment to produce more advanced, fuel-efficient vehicles. Senator Stabenow and I successfully worked with the Budget Committee to include funding in the FY09 Budget for the retooling program.

Retooling auto manufacturing facilities is necessary to respond to the current economic realities, to respond to recent Congressional mandates to promote energy security by producing more fuel-efficient vehicles, and to continue to ensure a strong American auto manufacturing workforce in the United States. Auto facilities provide high-quality jobs throughout the country and retooling these facilities will help ensure these jobs continue to provide opportunities for hard-working families in our communities and states in future years. I have heard from many auto workers in Wisconsin who are willing to work with automobile manufacturers to retool plants in order to make more fuel efficient products. By funding the various retooling programs, including the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program, the federal government can be an instrumental partner in retooling auto manufacturing facilities across the country.

With last year's energy bill, Congress took the first steps towards working with automobile manufacturers to retool the industry to build more fuel efficient cars, which would in turn create green jobs and provide for a stronger future for auto workers throughout the country. As this session of Congress comes to a conclusion, I ask that you include the highest possible fiscally responsible funding for the various retooling programs, including the retooling loans that were authorized in Sec. 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, in legislation Congress will be taking up shortly. Funding for these programs will help enable manufacturers take the next steps towards creating more fuel efficient cars and help to protect high quality American jobs. I realize there are serious fiscal implications to appropriating funds for these

programs and would be willing to work with you to identify appropriate offsets to ensure that this will not increase our budget deficit.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator