



AAPC Statement on Testimony for Negotiating Objectives on Japan's Participation in the TPP

WASHINGTON, D.C. – American Automotive Policy Council President Matt Blunt issued this statement today on the testimony he provided to the United States Trade Representative on AAPC's stance on negotiating objectives regarding Japan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement.

"Today's hearing was an important step towards making sure all involved in the TPP talks understand the need for Japan to commit itself to strong and enforceable disciplines on the use of currency manipulation and a level playing field for auto manufacturers, which have been the engine of the U.S. manufacturing recovery.

"The current eleven member nations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership are dedicated to an advanced, 21st century agreement. With Japan joining, it cannot be allowed to continue to rely on currency manipulation policies and non-tariff barriers to keep foreign competitors from its domestic market which cost U.S. jobs and undermine U.S. exports.

In his testimony, Blunt called on the Obama Administration to ensure the TPP includes strong and enforceable currency provisions, elimination of Japan's non-tariff barriers, and a robust and accelerated auto dispute settlement mechanism, as well as other commitments.

"A standard free trade agreement with Japan will reward them with nearly \$1 billion in annual tariff savings and allow for a massive loophole to remain in place by not preventing currency manipulation," Blunt said in his testimony. "According to the Center for Automotive Research this could lead to the loss of nearly 100,000 American jobs. Unless the final text of the TPP Agreement includes the provisions proposed in our submission, it will be impossible for the AAPC to support the TPP Agreement."

Read Governor Blunt's submission [here](#).

The American Automotive Policy Council, Inc. (AAPC) is a Washington, D.C. association that represents the common public policy interests of its member companies Chrysler Group LLC, Ford Motor Company and General Motors Company.

###