

# AAPC

AMERICAN AUTOMOTIVE POLICY COUNCIL



## **AAPC Statement on Reports that Japan Intends to Join Trans-Pacific Partnership Talks**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – American Automotive Policy Council President Matt Blunt issued the following statement today on media reports that Japan intends to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

“The American Automotive Policy Council, a strong supporter of the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks with its current negotiating partners, opposes Japan joining the talks at this time. Japan remains the most closed auto market to imports in the developed world and the automotive sector currently represents 68% of the \$76 billion U.S. trade deficit last year with Japan. Japan joining the talks now will indefinitely delay the TPP negotiations.

“To date, Japan has not indicated a willingness to change its decades-long practice of maintaining a closed automotive market. Given the systemic trade imbalance and lack of willingness to reform, a U.S. free trade agreement with Japan would only lock-in the already one-way trade relationship Japan’s closed auto market has created. Japan’s inclusion would significantly delay, if not prevent, proceeding with a high-quality TPP trade agreement with other more compatible trade partners in the important and rapidly growing Pan-Pacific region.”

*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.*

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