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Auto Mayors concerned about new TPP trade deal and the negative impacts on auto sector

The Auto Mayors are concerned the new Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement will undermine the Canadian automotive industry's competitiveness and ongoing success, particularly in Ontario.

"The Comprehensive & Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) deal will have profound implications for the Ontario auto sector and our communities if it fails to recognize the uniquely integrated nature of the auto industry in North America," said Oakville Mayor Rob Burton, Chair of the Auto Mayors.

He questioned why the federal government accepted the CPTPP while it is still trying to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the United States and Mexico.

"The Auto Mayors are calling on the Canadian government to justify its apparent undercutting of the Canadian auto industry and NAFTA talks currently underway," said Mayor Burton.

"We believe it isn't a fair trade agreement," he continued. "It overlooks the auto sector – a vital part of the Canadian economy."

The federal government needs to ensure that the Ontario automotive industry is not adversely affected by content rules, vehicle standards, documentation requirement, and the phasing of tariff reductions relative to other countries.

The current deal needs to eliminate existing non-tariff barriers, as well as prevent future potential barriers to Canadian exports.

The Auto Mayors are urging the federal government to work collaboratively with the Canadian auto industry to address their concerns and halt any CPTPP discussions regarding Canada's auto sector until the NAFTA renegotiations have been completed.

"We need to work together to maintain and expand automotive manufacturing in Ontario," said Mayor Burton.



About the Auto Mayors:

The Auto Mayors work collaboratively at the provincial and federal levels to promote awareness, advocacy and strategic policy initiatives to strengthen the Canadian economy by keeping the automotive sector strong as a driver of employment, innovation and productivity advances across the Canadian economy so we can afford to look after all our needs as a society such as infrastructure creation and renewal. For more information about the Auto Mayors, please visit automayors.ca.

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