

By: Representative Calhoun

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
2 TAKE INTERVENING ACTION AND SECURE THE VIABILITY OF THE UNITED
3 STATES AUTO INDUSTRY.

4 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of our national homeland
5 security to have a strong and vibrant manufacturing and industrial
6 sector, capable of producing the necessary machinery and
7 technology to defend the citizens of the United States and protect
8 our interests abroad, but sadly our manufacturing and industrial
9 sector has been experiencing a dramatic reduction in capacity and
10 production over the last several decades; and

11 WHEREAS, government has an obligation to promote economic
12 activity through the creation of new capital investment, which
13 will result in the expansion of employment opportunities and help
14 jumpstart long-term capital investment by private investors; and

15 WHEREAS, as government leaders, we must ensure the continued
16 viability of our automotive and machine tool industries, which
17 create the bedrock of America's economy, and the loss of these
18 vital economic anchors would be a disaster with incalculable
19 chain-reaction consequences for our nation and the world; and

20 WHEREAS, on June 7, 2005, General Motors Chairman and Chief
21 Executive Officer Rick Wagoner announced plans to reduce GM's
22 manufacturing employment levels in the United States by 25,000 or
23 more people in the 2005 to 2008 period; and

24 WHEREAS, the United States' automobile industry has 475
25 Billion Dollars of collective debt and its bond rating has been
26 recently lowered, thus making filing for bankruptcy by the leading
27 automobile manufacturers a very real possibility; and

28 WHEREAS, it is conceivable that the automobile industry's
29 leading manufacturers could close most, if not all, of its
30 factories in the United States, which would cause a chain reaction
31 of damage and devastate local suppliers such as the Wentzville GM
32 facility; and

33 WHEREAS, certain stop-gap measures and long-term actions
34 should be adopted and implemented by Congress to forestall threats
35 to our economy from the problems associated with the automotive
36 and machine tool sectors of our economy; and

37 WHEREAS, one of the key options is federal capital investment
38 in diversification of the productive potential of the automotive
39 and machine tool industries into a broader mixture of production,
40 shifting the nation into the domain of essential capital goods and
41 economic infrastructure, such as the repair, expansion, and
42 improvement of our national railway systems; maintenance and
43 improvement of water management systems; and the development of
44 other urgently needed infrastructure projects; and

45 WHEREAS, the result of this national shift will be to save
46 existing manufacturing jobs and create new larger areas of
47 employment in infrastructure and manufacturing for our citizenry
48 in a manner comparable to the best of the New Deal programs that
49 rescued the nation and the world from the ravages of the Great
50 Depression; and

51 WHEREAS, an increasing number and variety of relevant
52 specialists are warning that the collapse of the national economy
53 could occur if certain stop-gap and long-term actions are not
54 adopted and implemented to forestall the threats to our economy
55 from the problems associated with the automotive and machine tool
56 sectors of our economy; and

57 WHEREAS, the loss of the physical capabilities of the
58 automotive industry, especially its machine tool sector, could
59 mean the end of America's leadership as a world economic power:

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
61 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
62 THEREIN, That we do hereby urge the United States Congress to
63 intervene in the United States automobile industry's current
64 financial crisis so that we may ensure the continued viability of
65 our automotive and machine tool industries.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
67 furnished to the President of the United States Senate, the
68 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members
69 of the Mississippi Congressional Delegation and to the members of
70 the Capitol Press Corps.