

U.S.SENATOR

Debbie STABENOW

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Stabenow to Bush: Set Big 3 Meeting Date Now **Senator Calls on President to Set Firm Date for Auto Meeting**

Lansing—Senator Debbie Stabenow today called on President Bush to use his impending political fundraising visit this Thursday as an opportunity to finally announce a solid date to sit down and meet with the CEOs of the Big Three Automakers.

“After canceling on the Big Three three times in Washington and ignoring them on his last visit to Michigan it’s the least he can do,” said Senator Stabenow. “We need a 21st century manufacturing agenda that will work for American businesses instead of against them. The President has failed on that front, instead setting policies that have allowed unfair foreign trade practices to go unpunished, encouraged outsourcing and cost Michigan jobs. Announcing a date to meet with heads of the largest manufacturers in the country does not seem like too unrealistic a request from the state most adversely impacted by the President’s economic failures. We hope he doesn’t disappoint Michigan again.”

President Bush has canceled or postponed meetings with the CEOs of the Big Three Automakers in Washington on at least three occasions over the last year. Less than two months ago the President traveled to the backyard of the Big Three, again refusing to take time out of his busy fundraising schedule for a meeting. Karl Rove, top White House advisor, indicated yesterday that a meeting may take place around November 14, but refused to set a firm date or provide further specifics.

“The problems facing Michigan’s manufacturers and workers don’t care about the arbitrary calendar of elections,” said Senator Stabenow. “We need action now. And short of action the Big Three deserve at least a commitment, including a specific time, place and date, for a meeting to discuss the issues facing American manufacturers in a global market. It is literally the least the President could do.”

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Paid for by Stabenow for Senate