

Rally for Jobs at the North American International Auto Show

across from Cobo Hall, Downtown Detroit

Sunday, January 9 • 1:30-3 pm

- No to global whipsawing, good union jobs at equal pay for equal work
- No to U.S.-Korea “free trade” agreement — “fair trade” benefits all
- Reopen and retool plants for green jobs — save the environment



While auto moguls gather here in Detroit to show off their new products, workers and communities responsible for their success face austerity and cutbacks. Where once-bustling auto plants employed hundreds of thousands of workers and sustained thriving communities, now factories sit empty. Workers are robbed of their livelihoods, the fabric of our cities and communities is torn apart, the crisis of evictions and foreclosures continues and our environment is laid to waste.

CEOs at the auto show will be full of bravado over the billions in profits flowing into their coffers. First they create a crisis of unemployment, and then when they are in the position to hire, they hire “temporaries.” When they do hire permanent workers, it is under a two-tier pay structure where new hires earn \$14 an hour—near the poverty rate for a family of four. Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne has the nerve to tell us we should “get used to a culture of poverty.”



The 25-day strike against Hyundai—the world’s fourth largest auto company—put the spotlight on “precarious workers.” Not only in Korea, but here at home as well, restructuring has reduced the number of permanent, full-time jobs with decent wages and benefits.

Furthermore, the proposed U.S.-Korea “free trade” agreement would eliminate jobs and depress wages both in this country and South Korea—relinquishing labor and environmental protections to the demands of the multinationals.

There are alternatives to the hollowing out of U.S. manufacturing, to growing social inequality and overdependence on fossil fuels. Rather than abandon our skilled industrial workforce and our immense productive capacity, let’s reopen plants and produce what we need. In the 1950s the government subsidized the expansion of the auto industry with a massive highway construction program; today we need a government subsidy to support mass transit and develop a renewable energy infrastructure. We can manufacture buses, light rail and high-speed trains as well as wind and water turbines and solar panels along with environment-friendly automobiles.

Such an innovative and productive industry needs union jobs at good wages, based on the principle of equal pay for equal work. Let’s end two-tier!

While worker productivity has soared over the past decades, workers haven’t benefited. We need a shorter work week—with no cut in pay—so everyone can work. When the 35-hour week was implemented in France over 400,000 jobs were created. During the Great Depression—as part of the 1932 Ford Hunger March and during the 1937 Flint Sit-down strike—workers demanded “30 hours work for 40 hours pay.” Isn’t it long overdue?

Big Three management claim that “global competition” requires austerity for working people yet justify their enormous salaries and perks. As autoworkers, retirees and members of the community, we refuse to accept this inequality. We demand nothing less than a sustainable economy for a sustainable planet!

SPONSORS: Autoworkers Caravan, www.autoworkercaravan.com; Factoryrats Unite! www.factoryrat.com; Supporters of Gary Walkowicz; Warriors of Labor, www.warriorsoflabor.com; endorsed by Coalition of Concerned Citizens & Moratorium Now Coalition, www.moratorium-mi.org. For more information, contact Al Benchich, ajbenchich@mac.com, 586-489-5838 or Stacey Kemp, 810-638-4672.