

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 2011

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Burton
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa, Congressman Burton and Congressman Jordan:

I am responding to your letter dated July 6, 2011, regarding my testimony before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending on June 22, 2011. As an initial matter, the Administration respects the Committee's oversight role, and I personally take very seriously my responsibility in testifying before Congress.

In your letter, you ask if I would like to clarify my testimony about whether I made a certain comment at a dinner two years earlier in July 2009. After receiving your letter and with the benefit of the transcript passage that you quote, I have reviewed carefully the questions asked and my responses, as well as my best recollection of the event in question. I do not recall making the alleged comment that was the subject of Congressman Burton's inquiry. Nonetheless, given the amount of time that has passed since the dinner in July 2009 and the fact that others may have a different recollection, I cannot say with absolute certainty that I did not make the alleged comment. In light of that uncertainty and in order to make sure the hearing record is as precise as possible, I would ask that this letter be made part of the official record so that my testimony will reflect that I do not recall making the alleged comment.

The overriding objective that guided the Auto Task Force was to bring much needed stability to this crucial sector of our economy, keep hundreds of thousands of Americans working, and give GM and Chrysler a chance to become viable, competitive American businesses. While difficult for all parties involved, I believe that in the end this objective was achieved in a fair and reasonable manner.

I can assure you that the comment attributed to me is not reflective of my view.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Bloom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron Bloom

Assistant to the President for Manufacturing Policy

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

The Honorable Dennis Kucinich, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs