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## **For immediate release**

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### **Wayne County executive supports automakers with radio ads**

As debate over a proposed bailout of U.S. automakers intensified, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano has sponsored radio ads supportive of the auto industry to air Wednesday on stations in Washington, D.C. and Birmingham, Ala.

The ads are targeted to influence U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Alabama and other senators as lawmakers from both parties and the Bush administration weigh the merits of aid for the auto industry. Shelby, the top ranking Republican on the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, has opposed assistance.

One-minute radio spots touting the importance of the auto industry will air hourly Wednesday from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. on stations WAPI and WZRR in Birmingham, Ala. and WMAL in Washington, D.C. The ads, which cost about \$10,000, encourage listeners to call their senators and tell them to “stand up for the car companies.”

“We wanted to be proactive in our support,” said Ficano, whose political action committee paid for the ads. “This is the time for all voices to be heard.”

The ads point out that the Detroit Big 3 were the Arsenal of Democracy that built tanks, vehicles and planes in World War II.

“Making loans available now to the American car companies who stood up for America is not only patriotic but makes sense,” the ad says.

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