

“just say no” crowd in Washington—they’re still saying no—who basically said: “Well, this is a terrible investment. We should just let the market take its course, let GM, let Chrysler go bankrupt.” So there was a lot of skepticism out there.

But we made the decision to step in. And the reason I did that was because I had confidence in you. I had faith in you, because I believe that the American worker is the best worker on Earth. We’ve got the best engineers, we’ve got the best technologies, and if we could just mobilize our strengths and our talents and feel confident about the future, nothing can stop us.

And now here we are a year later. And a year later, GM and Chrysler, along with Ford, are all posting a profit. The U.S. auto industry has hired 55,000 workers, the most job growth in a decade. And not only that, but you’re producing the cars of the future right here at this plant, producing cars that are going to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. This car right here doesn’t need a sip of gasoline for 40 miles and then keeps on going after that.

And along with creating these new products, we’ve also started to say, well, why don’t we make the advanced batteries that go into the Volt right here in the United States of America? So we were making 2 percent of the advanced batteries right here in the United States. By 2015, in 5 years, we will have 40 percent of the market in advanced batteries right here in the United States of America being made by American workers.

Now, let’s be clear: We’re not out of the woods yet. The economy is now growing. It was shrinking at 6 percent. Now it’s growing at 2.4 percent. We’ve added private sector jobs for 6 months in a row. But there’s still too many folks unemployed. There are a lot of folks in the auto industry who haven’t been hired back. We’re

still going to have to do a lot of work to put folks back to work.

But we are moving in the right direction. The trend lines are good. And as people get more confident, people are going to start saying, it’s finally time for me to buy a new car. And they’re not just going to look at some foreign-made car, they’re going to say, you know what, GM is making the car of the future, and I’m going to take a look at what GM is making.

So we’ve got a lot of work to do. We’ve got some challenges out here. We’re going to have to keep on being lean and mean. We’re going to have to keep on marketing our products more effectively. We’re going to have to make sure the Government, business, everybody is working in the same direction. We’ve got to export more. We can’t just buy from other countries; we got to sell to other countries. And that means we’ve got to make sure that our trade deals are fair. But let me tell you, when I look out at this plant and I look out at all of you, it gives me hope. It confirms my conviction: Don’t bet against the American worker; don’t bet against the American people.

We are back on our feet. We are on the move. GM is on the move, the U.S. auto industry is on the move, and America is on the move. And I’m not going to rest until every single American worker who wants to get back to work is going to be back to work. You’re helping lead the way, and I’m grateful to you.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:46 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Teri Quigley, plant manager, Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Center; and Frank Moultrie, chairman, UAW Local 22.

## Statement on the Detention of American Citizens in Iran *July 30, 2010*

Tomorrow marks 1 year since Sarah Shourd, Shane Bauer, and Josh Fattal were detained by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Sarah, Shane, and Josh committed absolutely no crime. When they

were arrested and detained, they were hiking in the region along the border of Iran and Iraq. Yet for a full year, they have been held in prison, causing extraordinary grief and uncertainty

for them, for their families, and for their loved ones.

I want to be perfectly clear: Sarah, Shane, and Josh have never worked for the United States Government. They are simply openminded and adventurous young people who represent the best of America and of the human spirit. They are teachers, artists, and advocates for social and environmental justice. They have never had any quarrel with the Government of Iran, and have great respect for the Iranian people.

I call on the Iranian Government to immediately release Sarah, Shane, and Josh. Their unjust detention has nothing to do with the issues that continue to divide the United States and the international community from the Iranian Government. This is a humanitarian imperative, as these three young people are innocent of any crime. As a signatory to multiple conventions on human rights, the Government of Iran should act in line with the principles of justice and allow Sarah, Shane, and Josh to be reunited with their families. This call has been echoed by people in many countries, and is shared by all who respect human freedom and decency.

I want to particularly acknowledge the suffering and advocacy of Sarah, Shane, and Josh's families. Earlier this week, I spoke with the

mothers of these three young people, who have worked tirelessly for the release of their children. The Iranian Government's gesture of allowing these mothers to visit their children was welcome, but I cannot imagine how painful it was for these three courageous women to return home without their children. I told these three mothers that Sarah, Shane, and Josh are in my thoughts and prayers, and that the U.S. Government would continue to do all that it could to secure their release.

I also spoke earlier this week with the wife of Robert Levinson, who went missing in Iran over 3 years ago. We continue to have no information about his welfare and reiterate our call for the Government of Iran to provide any information that it has about his whereabouts. It is time to facilitate Robert Levinson's return to the family and friends who have suffered so greatly in his absence. We continue to have him in our thoughts and prayers and to do all that we can to reunite him with his family.

Each of these cases reminds us of the dignity that is shared by all human beings and the necessity of justice. All Americans stand together in support of our citizens who are suffering through unjust detention abroad, and we will not rest until they are home.

## The President's Weekly Address *July 31, 2010*

Hello everybody. I'm speaking to you from the GM auto plant here in Detroit, Michigan, where a hopeful story is unfolding in a place that's been one of the hardest hit in America.

In the 12 months before I took office, American auto companies lost hundreds of thousands of jobs. Sales plunged 40 percent. Liquidation was a very real possibility. Years of papering over tough problems and a failing to adapt to changing times, combined with a vicious economic crisis, brought an industry that's been the symbol of our manufacturing might for a century to the brink of collapse.

We didn't have many good options. On the one hand, we could have continued the practice of handing out billions of taxpayer dollars to the

auto industry with no real strings attached. On the other hand, we could have walked away and allowed two major auto companies to go out of business, which could have wiped out 1 million American jobs.

I refused to let that happen. So we came up with a third way. We said to the auto companies, if you're willing to make the hard decisions necessary to adapt and compete in the 21st century, we'll make a one-time investment in your future.

Of course, if some folks had their way, none of this would be happening at all. This plant might not exist because there were leaders of the "just say no" crowd in Washington who argued that standing by the auto industry would