From: Hall, Katie (J. Gillard, MP) [ ]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 April 2008 3:30 PM
To: Automotive Review
Subject: FW: Follow up from meeting with Julia Gillard re Automotive Industry
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr Bracks,

Recently Ms Gillard met with the manager of a local business in her electorate who produce carpet for cars.

They came to Julia to outline their concerns about the future of the industry and she asked that I forward you their correspondance for consideration in your review.

Thanking you

Katie

Katie Hall
Electorate Officer

The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Member for Lalor
Minister for Education
Minister for Employment & Workplace Relations
Minister for Social Inclusion

Phone: Fax:

-----Original Message-----
From: Leonie Francis [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 March 2008 3:42 PM
To: Hall, Katie (J. Gillard, MP)
Subject: Follow up from meeting with Julia Gillard re Automotive Industry

Dear Katie,

Following up from my meeting with Julia Gillard, I am forwarding my suggestion to be passed on to Steve Bracks to be considered in his review of the Automotive Industry.

T.S.T Carpet Manufacturers (Aust) Pty Ltd is the last automotive carpet manufacturer for the OE market left in all of Australia. There are other companies who bring in the carpet tufted from overseas and finish here; we actually tuft the carpet here. We have witnessed the demise of some of our suppliers, suppliers not continuing to make yarns, foams etc because of lack of volume. We are concerned with the direction the industry is heading close on the heels of Mitsubishi pulling out. I want to put my hand up and let people know we are still here. I would like to be kept informed about any issues regarding the automotive industry and decisions and policies that this government make or change in relation to our industry.

I am aware that the government tends to focus its help on the production lines themselves; however I just want to bring attention to you, other businesses like ourselves that also need to be considered as we feed into the production lines. I am not after a hand out, we are diversifying our business, we are going through quality

control at the moment and we are using the SIP scheme to improve our processes and productivity to make us competitive on a world wide scale. We consistently bench mark ourselves against production in China and are pleased to say, that we are competitive against goods coming in from China.

My idea that I want to put forward is that, the level of support that is given to the production companies (Toyota, Holden, Ford etc) both state and federal, should be measured, i.e. it may equate to 3% of their income. There should be a requirement on these companies to source from Australia first and if our tender is within the 3% range, we (being Australian made companies) should get the contract. Otherwise the government is supporting the production companies to source from overseas.

I am available to discuss this further in person, I am willing to be a member of a consultative group, I extend an invitation to come out and take a look at our business. I am committed to providing a world class product at a world competitive prices, however if the government is offering assistance it must take into consideration the whole of the industry and its impact right down the line.

Regards,

Leonie Francis
General Manager
T.S.T Carpet Manufacturers (Aust) Pty Ltd
Ph:
Fax:
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Email:
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