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## Dingell questions 'irresponsible' wage cuts

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WASHINGTON – One big auto supporter in the nation’s capital – Rep. John Dingell of Dearborn – is raising doubts about some of the conditions placed on the loans for Chrysler LLC and General Motors, saying “it is irresponsible during a time of economic crisis for the White House to insist that workers take further wage cuts.”

One target in the loan agreements calls for workers to get wages equal to those paid by foreign automakers at their American plants. The item is only a target, however – not a demand – and can be waived if it is felt by March 31 that the companies are making good progress toward viability.

Still, Dingell – who has been a stalwart advocate for domestic automakers over the years – said it was wrongheaded to include such a provision.

“No one is asking asking corporate executives to reduce their salaries to levels similar to that of their Japanese counterparts, and no one required the employees of Citibank or AIG to take a pay cut,” he said, noting that it ultimately will be up to President-elect Barack Obama’s designee to see it through.

“I strongly urge President-elect Obama to revisit this issue as his first priority upon being sworn in, and to ensure that assistance to the automakers is provided in a way that is fair to working Americans,” said Dingell.