



# Carhaul TEAMSTERS UPDATE

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## Teamsters Unite to Fight for Carhaul Jobs

### Hundreds of Members Hand Out Fliers at Dealerships



From coast to coast, hundreds of Teamsters took time out of their busy lives to handbill at auto dealerships this past weekend to alert the public about the crisis Teamster carhaulers are facing.

"I was out handbilling to send a message to GM and Chrysler that they cannot take billions of dollars in taxpayer money to get bailed out and then turn around and destroy good Teamster carhaul jobs," said Jim

Blake, a steward at Allied and member of Local 25 in Boston. "All of us need to take a few hours and handbill at dealerships."

The Local 25 members' efforts paid off, as representatives from a majority of the 10 dealerships targeted in the Boston area signed open letters to Chrysler and GM in support of our carhaulers. About 25 Local 25 members participated in the handbilling.

"I want to thank all our carhaul members who handbilled at dealerships in the Boston area," said Sean M. O'Brien, President of Local 25 in Boston. "We were able to get six of the 10 dealerships to sign letters in support of the Teamsters."

In fact, members and local union leaders who participated in the handbilling were able to get at least 25 letters of support signed by the dealership representatives.

Ehren Gerdes, a yard worker at Transport Support, Inc., a subsidiary of Allied, spent Saturday, his wedding anniversary, handbilling with his

wife for eight hours. His wife also works at the company.

"The handbilling gave our local union and our carhaul members an opportunity to show their solidarity in the fight against corporate greed," said Gerdes, a member of Local 414 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. "More of our members are planning to participate this weekend."

In the Denver area, Local 961 got one of the two dealerships it targeted to sign a letter.

At a Chevrolet dealership, it took only one hour to get a letter signed, said Matthew Fazakas, Local 961 President.

At the other dealership, a GM dealership, members faced harassment in the form of salespeople spitting toward them and setting off car alarms and blaring music in an attempt to intimidate the members. The Teamsters stood their ground and handed out fliers. A total of 16 members of Local 961 participated, including three workers from a packing house in Fort Morgan, Colorado, who drove 90 miles to help out.

"Nearly every customer took our flier," Fazakas said. "We were one for two in getting letters signed—we did well."

The owner of the dealership finally arrived and took the letter and said he would read it.

"We hope that after he reads the letter he will advise us that he shares our concerns and that he signs the letter," Fazakas said.

Teamsters in other parts of the country were also successful. While many faced similar harassment, and there were instances where police were called, the Teamsters held their ground everywhere. Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa also got involved, handing out fliers at a dealership on Long Island, New York.

"Our carhaul members, as well as other Teamsters, made this first round of handbilling a tremendous success," said Fred Zuckerman, Director of the Teamsters Carhaul Division. "We are ramping up our effort next weekend and we urge carhaul members who have not participated yet to call your local union to see how you can help."

The automakers received billions in taxpayer bailout money, which was meant to save jobs by allowing deserving American corporations to survive. So, why are these companies charging American consumers mandatory "destination fees" of up to \$900, or more, which have no relation to the actual cost of transporting the vehicle? Worse yet, GM and Chrysler are replacing Teamster companies with less reliable carriers and owner-operators getting subsistence pay.

Visit [www.teamster.org](http://www.teamster.org) for information.

