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## Coffman visits Aurora auto dealership to address dire straits for GM, Chrysler

By BRANDON JOHANSSON  
The Aurora Sentinel

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**AURORA** | General Motors and Chrysler may need to file for bankruptcy if the automakers hope to survive the tough economy, U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., said Wednesday during a visit to an Aurora car dealer.

Coffman said he doesn't want to see either company go through Chapter 11 bankruptcy, but it is definitely possible, more so for GM than Chrysler.

"I think they're ultimately going to have to go through a Chapter 11 process which is too bad for them," he said during a town hall meeting at Gateway Mazda on Havana Street.

The visit was organized by the American International Automobile Dealers Association, which also hosted U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter, D-Colo., at a dealership in his hometown of Golden this week.

Lori McMahon, a spokeswoman for the AIADA, said the group hopes to show lawmakers how dealerships work and to point out the role auto dealers play in the economy, both locally and nationally.

Coffman said the previous bailouts for the two American auto makers should have required them to make deeper cuts to their labor and operating budgets.

Now, bankruptcy appears to be the likeliest outcome, he said.

"I think there is a potential for both of them going into bankruptcy," he said.

Lawmakers in Washington, D.C. can best help the auto industry by making sure they don't put added burdens on industry.

"We need to think about, 'Is it the right time to do this?'" he said, referring specifically to a proposed "cap and trade" plan that could prove costly for companies that pollute.

Emanuel Bugelli, owner of Gateway Mazda, said he was concerned that any work lawmakers in Washington do may help domestic auto makers while harming foreign companies, such as Mazda.

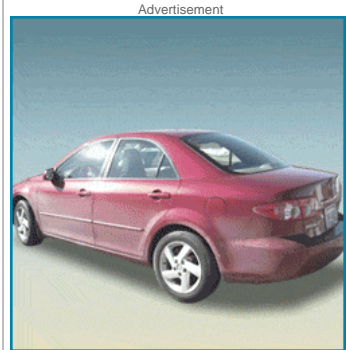
Coffman said he would oppose any plan that helps the domestic companies at the expense of other companies.



U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., speaks Wednesday during a town hall meeting at Gateway Mazda on Havana Street. (Photo by Joe Nguyen/The Aurora Sentinel)

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