FREEP: Rev. Jackson, UAW ask Ford staff to join march Date: Wednesday, August 25 @ 07:45:57 EDT Topic: UAW

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Called Rebuild America, the campaign's goal is to convince Congress to provide stronger support for the creation of manufacturing and middle-class jobs in America and improve labor laws rather than spending more money on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We want working people treated like Wall Street bankers," King said. "They want to pay for their homes, but they need a job to pay for their homes. So we've got to get ... people back to work."

Both Jackson and King distributed leaflets to plant workers and urged them to attend the event on Saturday that begins at the UAW-Ford National Programs Center, which is next to Hart Plaza in Detroit.

While workers were surprised to see Jackson and King on their way to work, and many declined to comment, others were excited.

Qi Beamon, 37, of Wayne was leaving work at 5 a.m. after working the nightshift but decided to stay to meet King and Jackson.

She said she supports the goals of the march and said with America's unemployment still near 10%, the country needs to invest more resources at home.

"If you can't take care of yourself, you can't take care of anybody else," Beamon said.

Jackson, a Democrat, also said his goal is to increase voter turnout in Detroit and other cities for Michigan's general election in November when Virg Bernero takes on Republican Rick Snyder.

"We can't win with 12% turnout. If Detroit moves from 12% to 60%, we will determine the course of the state," said Jackson, who is leading a 12-city, statewide bus tour prior to the march in Detroit on Saturday.

The march commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s march in Detroit in 1963 and builds toward a larger march scheduled for Oct. 2 in Washington, D.C., to commemorate King's "I Have a Dream," speech in Washington, D.C.

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