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What's at the Heart of G.M.'s Woes?

To the Editor:

Paul Krugman (column, Nov. 25) writes that the weakness of General Motors and other American manufacturing companies reflects "a dysfunctional health care system and an unsustainable trade deficit."

The failure of the American auto industry to keep up with market demands for smaller, efficient vehicles provides the third missing leg.

A major investment in clean, energy-efficient technologies and a national health care program would stimulate growth in jobs, help sustain them and provide valuable goods and services to export.

Now that combination would make an attractive campaign platform for the coming Congressional elections. Paul R. Epstein, M.D. Boston, Nov. 25, 2005 The writer is associate director, Center for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School.

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