



**Statement of the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce**

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To: DuPage County Board

Regarding: Navistar's Proposed Relocation To Lisle

By: Patrick Skarr  
Vice President, Advocacy, Economic Growth & Quality of Life  
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce

Delivered: Tuesday, March 23, 10:00 a.m.

Attachment: March 15, 2010 Letter

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Our Mission:

Through the commitment and engagement of our Members, the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce provides leadership for the benefit of the business community by promoting economic growth, advocating the interests of business, providing service and education to Members and community and meeting Members' needs.

*The Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce is the second largest Chamber of Commerce in Illinois and has received the prestigious designation of 5-Star Accreditation from the United States Chamber of Commerce. An honor bestowed on only 59 Chambers in the nation, out of the nearly 7,000, for their Member's involvement and engagement in promoting free enterprise and strengthening their regional business community.*

Statement of Patrick Skarr  
Vice President  
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce  
March 23, 2010

My name is Patrick Skarr and I work for the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, at 55 South Main Street, Suite 351 in Naperville. Chairman Schillerstrom and Members of the County Board, thank you for the opportunity to you speak today. I am here on behalf of the Chamber's Board of Directors who last week sent you a letter of endorsement of Navistar's proposed relocation to the Village of Lisle.

We would like to take a moment to thank the County Board for your leadership that has brought us to this point. You have made job creation and economic growth a top priority. With job creation actions speak louder than words, and your work to surface this proposal, and many others, is sending the message that DuPage County welcomes jobs and business growth. The Chamber would like to publically acknowledge and thank you for your work.

During these difficult economic times your approach of partnering with the private sector to bring quality jobs that families can count on to the County, is the absolute right policy. Our challenge is daunting. In 2009, Illinois lost 250,000 jobs and our unemployment rate is now over 12%. The updated unemployment statistics show that over 800,000 individuals and families are looking for employment and cannot find it across our state.

Today the Chamber is here to urge you to take all necessary steps to immediately renew the Intergovernmental Agreements to keep the relocation project moving forward. If the agreements are not extended and the concept is forced to go back to the drawing board, the result will be economically devastating for years to come. A rejection would devastating for the resurgence of the high tech corridor; and our mutual hope, to be a worldwide destination center for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, will have suffered a major setback.

In these difficult economic times, business and elected official have a duty to work together to forge solutions that help retain and create jobs, while encouraging investment and economic growth. Navistar's commitment to bring 1,700 new jobs to DuPage County will create new opportunities for the unemployed. Moreover, Navistar's commitment to invest \$100 million in the project will provide immediate jobs in the construction industry, a profession that has been devastated by the economic downturn. There are numerous other

economic benefits to our region, both short-term and long-term, and that is why the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce has endorsed this proposal.

This project is good for our regional community, strengthens our quality of life, secures our economy, and gives workers devastated by this recession opportunity. We thank your leadership on this issue and ask for your continued support to carry this project past the finish line.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and for your continued service to our community.

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