



Statement of the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce

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To: Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Regarding: Navistar's Proposed Relocation To Lisle

By: John Schmitt
President & CEO
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce

Delivered: Tuesday, march 16, 9:00 a.m.

Attachment: March 16, 2010 Letter

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 John Schmitt
President & CEO
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce
March 16, 2010

My name is John Schmitt and I am the President & CEO of the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, at 55 South Main Street, Suite 351 in Naperville. Board President Pierotti and Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am here in my role as President & CEO of the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, the largest suburban Chamber in Illinois with over 1,700 members of all sizes and types.

Yesterday, we sent you a copy of our letter of support and endorsement of Navistar's proposed relocation to the Village of Lisle, and the letter is attached to my statement so I will be brief.

The Naperville Area Chamber has endorsed this proposal because of the economic activity the relocation will spur and sustain. As we see it, thousands of businesses, from large to small in our region, will be positively impacted by this relocation. We urge you to take all necessary steps to immediately renew the Intergovernmental Agreements to keep this 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. The campus specifically, and the corridor in general, will be scarred. Rather than be seen as a welcoming environment for innovation and investment, we will be remembered as a region that sent the jobs of the 21st century packing.

It is no secret as a state we have serious economic challenges. This past year Illinois has lost 250,000 jobs, bringing our unemployment rate over 11%. The recession has taken an especially harsh toll on the construction trades and some report as high as 40% unemployment. The result is over 745,000 individuals and families are looking for employment and cannot find it.

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.

Yesterday a Member remarked that this relocation is a once in a decade opportunity for our business community. As I had a chance to reflect on it, his comment was spot on. This proposal fills a corporate campus that has been vacant since the collapse of the telecommunications industry at the early part of the last decade. As a business community, we cannot afford the lost opportunity as the East Lucent Campus sits vacant for another decade.

The public process thus far has raised important questions about Navistar's proposal and we commend the Forest Preserve District for its work on this project. At the Chamber's Special Business Briefing last week attended by over 325 business and civic leaders, Navistar provided an update on their substantially revised plans and environmental impact.

In short, 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 initial support of this proposal and for your continued assistance to bring 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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March 15, 2010

President D. Dewy Pierotti and Commissioners
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
3S580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189-8761

Dear President Pierotti and Commissioners:

I am writing you today on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of our 1,700 member businesses in the region, I would like to notify you of our support and endorsement of Navistar's proposed relocation to the Village of Lisle.

The creation and retention of jobs should be the number one priority of every body of government. Illinois has an 11.3% unemployment rate, in January 745,000 individuals were looking for work and could not find employment. The recession has taken an especially harsh toll on the construction trades and some report as high as 40% unemployment. 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.

The proposed corporate relocation will breathe life into the vacant Lucent campus and the struggling I-88 Research and Development Corridor. Occupied by Navistar, the Campus will serve as a sign of our region's resurgence from the economic difficulties of this past decade. More importantly, over 3,100 families in our region will be able to count on stable and long-lasting employment at one of the world's oldest and largest companies.

Our region, specifically the I-88 Research and Development Corridor, had built a reputation, talent base and infrastructure capital to be a global innovation center. Navistar's proposal to invest \$100 million in the East Lucent Campus to create a high-tech research and development center will help to revitalize the corridor. The proposed R&D facility will help put our region on the global map as an innovation leader of green technologies.

The public process thus far has raised important questions about Navistar's proposal and we commend the Forest Preserve District for its work on this project. At the Chamber's Special Business Briefing last week attended by over 325 business and civic leaders, Navistar provided an update on their substantially revised plans and environmental impact.

The **BusinessVoice**

President Pierotti and Commissioners
Monday, March 15, 2010
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On behalf of the thousands of impacted businesses in our region, we urge you to take all necessary steps to immediately renew the Intergovernmental Agreements to keep this project moving forward.

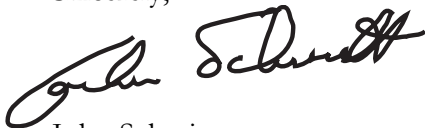
If the agreements are not extended and the concept is forced to go back to the drawing board, the result will be economically devastating for years to come. The campus specifically, and the corridor in general, will be scarred. Rather than be seen as a welcoming environment for innovation and investment, we will be remembered as a region that sent the jobs of the 21st century packing.

Navistar's commitment to this proposal cannot be open ended. If progress on this project stalls, they will have no choice but to move to other states, where the local, regional and state governments are offering significant incentive packages.

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 initial support of this proposal and for your continued assistance to bring this project past the finish line.

Do not hesitate to contact the Chamber with questions or to let us know how we can be of further support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Schmitt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Schmitt
President & CEO
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce