



ILLINOIS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

March 12, 2010

Mr. D. "Dewey" Pierotti Jr.
President
Forest Preserve District
PO Box 5000
Wheaton, IL 60189

Dear Mr. Pierotti,

In the midst of the worst environment for the trucking industry since 1950, the Navistar team distinguishes themselves worldwide as a proven leader in the development and distribution of commercial and military transportation solutions. Their sound financial planning and responsible fiscal management has translated into consistently strong revenues and increased profitability even amongst the toughest of economic conditions nationally. We are blessed to have such a successful and quality focused corporation choosing to make DuPage County the world headquarters.

Navistar is prepared to spend \$100 million-plus on renovations, building a state-of-the-art research and development center at the currently vacant Lucent buildings on Warrenville Road in Lisle. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce and our affiliated members fully support Navistar's commitment to further invest in Illinois. We strongly encourage the Forest Preserve District to renew the intergovernmental agreement and continue to be a supportive facilitator of moving the process forward.

Illinois has tragically lost 250,000 jobs in the past year and unemployment hovers at 11%. Navistar's investment in the Lisle Lucent campus ensures the retention and addition of nearly 3,000 highly paid direct jobs. Their main development proposal will also create 4,000 indirect jobs for Illinois' skilled tradesmen. This labor pool is facing a record high unemployment at around 40%. The surrounding DuPage County communities will benefit economically through Navistar's ripple effects on housing, hotel, entertainment, and support services.

As we work through unprecedented economic hardships, Illinois can not afford to lose the benefits of Navistar's investment in our state. If we wish our communities and state to prosper, it is our responsibility to seek sustaining solutions to stabilize and support innovative industry leaders, like Navistar. The company's commitment to investment and expansion during a economic downturn affirms Navistar vision to dramatically grow their business. The company's current experience may have consequences for future expansions that could bring even greater tangible economic benefits to Illinois.



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If the people, communities and governments in Illinois are to prosper it is imperative that we work together to ensure that employers prosper. Illinois' anti-business track record over the last several years has been disastrous. There have been obvious economic consequences to political decisions that put up barriers to investment, drive jobs to friendlier locations and erode the tax base for governments. Our state has lost 750,000 jobs in the last decade. Our governments are desperate for the tax revenue that flows when economic vitality is encouraged and job growth is nurtured. It is time to send constructive signals to employers that our state and communities welcome and desire successful businesses locating in our research and office corridors.

Navistar has recently made it clear that without a renewed and mutually agreed upon intergovernmental agreement, they will take their relocation investment out of Illinois.

Navistar deserves your support and assistance. I hope to see the Forest Preserve District makes the decisions that demonstrate a willingness to reverse the state's empty building fortunes by assuring a future that will attract and grow talented, professional and successful world-class businesses to DuPage County.

Sincerely,

Doug Whitley
President/CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

CC: Robert Schillerstrom
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