

John Loudon 7th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 422 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release: Jan. 23, 2006

Contact: Nick Bengston

(573) 751-9763

Sen. John Loudon Remarks on Today's Announcement Regarding the Hazelwood Ford Plant

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, today issued the following statement:

"Today I am very disappointed following the announcement by Ford Motor Company to close their manufacturing plant in Hazelwood by 2008, one in a series of nationwide cutbacks by the automobile manufacturer.

The Ford Motor Company had created many job opportunities for the Hazelwood community, and in return the town has continually supported the economic and job-force growth of the plant. I have dedicated many hours of work trying to protect the future of the Hazelwood Ford plant and the many jobs it has sustained. Despite the continual lobbying and support for the local plant by myself, Chairman Chuck Mueller and the other members of the Hazelwood Task Force, and the Missouri General Assembly's work enacting litigation and workers' compensation reform, Ford Motor Company has decided to make many cuts across the country to ensure their future financial success. Although our efforts weren't as successful as hoped in Hazelwood, we have seen the effects pay off with the \$1-billion investment in Fenton by Daimler-Chrysler.

While today's announcement appears bleak for the workers, families and neighborhoods affected by the closing, I know at this moment we begin another chapter in the generous and supportive spirit of the Hazelwood community. I am confident Hazelwood will have a thriving economic future and continued job growth and advancement for its workers."