



**Senator
Bill Stouffer**

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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The Stouffer Report: The Caterpillar Plant in Boonville Expands

Manufacturing is doing well in rural Missouri. A great example is the Caterpillar plant in Boonville.

In August, it was announced [Caterpillar, Inc.](#) would receive \$35,000 to train 100 employees at their Boonville location. This is part of Caterpillar's physical expansion there, which will grow the location from the current 114,000 square feet to 164,000 square feet. This also means improvements for the roads and other services in and around their location.

All of this is coming as we continue to hear how manufacturing is almost nonexistent in the United States. We are fortunate to have several strong manufacturing firms throughout rural Missouri, which help to keep the heart and soul of the nation strong. Along with a solid farming foundation, manufacturing is what continues to help make Missouri a strong state economically.

Work has been underway all summer on improvements and expansion at the Cat plant. This has included changes and additions to roads, phone line and sewer line locations at [Mid-America Industrial Park](#), which is home base for the facility. Funding for this part of the expansion came from the [Missouri Department of Economic Development's Community Development Block Grant](#) program. The [City of Boonville](#) was awarded \$565,000 in industrial infrastructure grant monies in October, 2007.

Boonville's Caterpillar plant has also been the site of other special events this year. Congressman Sam Graves stopped there during the summer to talk about energy, the economy, and illegal immigration. I was fortunate enough to be invited to the facility at the end of August

to be part of a celebration of a milestone for the Boonville Caterpillar plant. In continuing to prove safety is their number one priority, employees at the plant were honored for going an entire year with no injuries and a million employee hours without a lost-time case, which is termed as a work-related injury that causes an employee to be out for a number of days after the injury was suffered. This points to the top notch team Cat has.

I am proud to know Caterpillar is expanding in Boonville. It speaks volumes to the quality of work and the quality of employees there. I also think the improvements at their plant and the Mid-America Industrial Park in Boonville will help the area grow in the years to come. The state, the City of Boonville and Caterpillar all came together to make this expansion happen. These are the kinds of partnerships we like to see and I applaud the efforts to move Missouri forward as we enter a new year.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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