

I see passion every day in my company. Passion in optimizing product quality, passion in developing better ways to execute complex tasks with precision and safety, and passion in working with a team of committed high performers always asking ourselves how we can do it better next time.

But when a corporation makes a decision about where to locate a new plant or which operation to shut down there is NO PASSION. It's just the numbers! When the cost to operate a manufacturing plant is less competitive in GA you can be sure that in equity will lead to manufacturers along with all their direct and indirect jobs leaving the state. Eliminating the tax exemption on raw materials and taxing energy are two examples of anti-growth tax policies.

The average base wage in my company is \$27 per hour. We have 330 direct employees in Augusta. Pertaining to the industries represented by some of the speakers this evening:

- Each of our employees has a great health plan and use local medical facilities
- They buy gas and other items at convenience stores
- It's probably safe to say that nearly all of them eat beef
- They use GA airports

We use a large number of local suppliers and contractors. The impact of their spending in the state of GA is probably similar.

Manufacturing, the production of tangible goods, is one of the pillars that a successful state economy is based on. I urge the Special Council to promote tax policies that promote the growth of industry in the state of GA.

My "thanks" to the Special Council for coming to Augusta and seeking input on this vital issue.

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