



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

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PARMA MAYOR TESTIFIES BEFORE *CHANGING*

***AUTO COMMITTEE* AT LCCC**

(LORAIN) – Parma Mayor Dean DePiero testified in Lorain Tuesday before a committee of Ohio lawmakers on the negative economic shockwaves following car dealership closings in northeast Ohio. The Joint Select Committee on the Impact of the Changing Automobile Industry in Ohio is hearing from mayors, car dealers and others on how to improve the business climate, reverse layoffs and protect the economy. Their findings will be presented to Governor Ted Strickland.

“The hearing was a startling reality check for our region,” said Mayor DePiero. “The ripple effect of dozens of dealership closings will have a devastating impact on our local economy – from job loss to lost tax revenue to the bottom line of seeing good businesses partners being forced to shut down.”

Mayor DePiero said he understands the need to keep the major automakers economically viable in order to trigger a strong rebound from the nation’s recession. He claims the mistake is that local dealers are the ones who are wrongly paying the price.

“I have spoken to profitable, dedicated car dealers in the Parma area who have been ordered to close their doors,” Mayor DePiero testified. “I can honestly say their reaction has been a combination of anger, shock, disbelief and devastation. They’re asking, ‘How can this be allowed to happen?’”

“These dealers did nothing wrong. That is why we cannot just stand by without helping them as they have helped out cities and towns. If not, I have to wonder what’s next – what profitable employer in my city will be next – told to shut down for no apparent reason other than to magically erase the mistakes of its parent company or corporation.

“That way of doing business is not only unfair – it truly is un-American,” Mayor DePiero concluded. “Unless we ‘stop the bleeding’ and reverse this process through proposed legislation in Washington, our cities and its residents will be the biggest losers of all.”

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