



August 20th, 2018

The Honorable Josh Hawley
Attorney General
Missouri Attorney General's Office
Supreme Court Building
207 W. High St.
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Thank you for your letter. It so clearly reflects that we have a common goal – saving 500 jobs in Poplar Bluff.

As our actions have demonstrated over the years, Deacero has always been dedicated to the people of Southeast Missouri. We have invested over \$15 million in Mid Continent in the past three years alone. We doubled our workforce in five years and we were on track for even more robust growth.

Then the Section 232 tariffs hit us. Now our business in jeopardy. We have continued to keep the plant operating with a workforce far in excess of what is required considering that we have lost more than half of our orders. We are losing money every month.

So we appreciate that you have told the Trump Administration that “Mid Continent makes a strong case for an exemption” and that you told workers in our plant Friday that you would do everything in your power to help them.

We also appreciate that you “continue to urge the Department of Commerce to grant [our exclusions] quickly.”

It is our intention to keep the plant open until we are granted exclusions – as long as those exclusions granted quickly, as you have urged. After the exclusions are granted, we will resume the level of production and employment that prevailed prior to June 1 – and we intend to continue growing the operation at Mid Continent, as we had previously planned.

The Mid Continent leadership is meeting with Secretary Ross tomorrow, and we will be asking him to grant our requests for exclusions immediately. Our record speaks for itself. For the sake of the people of Poplar Bluff, we both have a critical role to play in saving 500 jobs.

Sincerely,

Raul M. Gutiérrez Muguerza
President and CEO, Deacero