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Level Field Institute Comments on President Bush Visit to Kansas City Area Auto Plants

Below is a statement from Jim Doyle, president of the Level Field Institute (www.levelfieldinstitute.org):

“As President Bush tours GM and Ford plants in Kansas, he’s seeing first-hand why our automobile choices have such a significant impact on jobs and the American economy.

“Automakers around the world are answering the call for more fuel-efficient vehicles -- but there is a big difference between the approach of domestic automakers and foreign automakers. The work of the Big Three to develop and produce the next generation of fuel-efficient vehicles is being done right here in the U.S. In fact, the Big Three represent the largest source of corporate R&D in America. The development of new fuel efficient vehicles will help to grow and maintain the jobs and investment that come with this research and development work.

“While foreign automakers sell about as many cars in the U.S. as domestic automakers, 40 percent of foreign automaker jobs based here are at dealerships, not assembly lines, research labs or headquarter offices. Dealer jobs are important, but America cannot compete in a global economy by selling cars – it must compete by designing and building them. Millions of jobs and billions in research could depend on the vehicle choices Americans make.”

About Level Field Institute (www.levelfieldinstitute.org)

Level Field seeks to promote U.S. jobs, R&D and infrastructure investment by offering clear comparisons of how various automakers contribute to the U.S. economy. Established by retirees and families of GM, Ford, DaimlerChrysler, and the suppliers and dealers that support them, the Level Field Institute also has the support of major manufacturers, suppliers, dealers, unions and others

who care about these issues. Level Field welcomes foreign automaker investments and supports free trade.

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