



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Dieg and VanHaaften ask governor to intervene in out-of-state worker contract for Aventine plant construction**

INDIANAPOLIS—In a letter sent to the governor today, State Senator Bob Deig (D-Mount Vernon) and Representative Trent VanHaaften (D-Mount Vernon) asked that the state intervene in the hiring of out-of-state workers to complete the construction of the Aventine Renewable Energy plant.

“Our local communities – and our state - had higher expectations for this project,” said Dieg. “At the time the project was announced, Posey County provided a tax abatement to Aventine. This incentive was provided with the understanding that the construction and operation of the biorefinery would provide good jobs for local Hoosiers, an agreement that has been broken.”

In 2007, Aventine began construction of the ethanol biorefinery, but work on the site was abruptly halted when Aventine filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. At the time, almost 80 percent of the plant construction was completed using local contractors. Dieg and VanHaaften also noted in their letter that Aventine’s bankruptcy left some local contractors unpaid for their work.

With the recent emergence of Aventine, came an announcement that construction will resume within the next several weeks however, an out-of-state company has been selected to complete the site with 90 percent of the workers coming in from out-of-state locations.

“How can we allow a project at an Indiana Port to bring workers from out-of-state when the local community can provide a highly qualified, skilled workforce prepared to begin work on this project? These jobs should be filled by local workers, where a positive impact can be made on the area’s high unemployment rate,” Deig emphasized.

A similar plant, the Abengoa Ethanol Plant, was also built in Posey County this year and was constructed using local labor. The Abegona project was completed under budget and two months ahead of schedule.

To read Senator Deig and Representative Vanhaaften’s letter to the governor, follow the link below:

[http://www.in.gov/legislative/senate\\_democrats/files/Aventine.pdf](http://www.in.gov/legislative/senate_democrats/files/Aventine.pdf)

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*State Senator Bob Deig represents Senate District 49, which encompasses portions of Gibson, Posey and Vanderburgh Counties. For more information on Sen. Deig or other State Senate business visit [www.in.gov/49](http://www.in.gov/49).*