

April 6, 2009
Senator Johnny Isakson
NAM Award Presentation

Good Morning and thank you for being here this morning. Special thanks goes out to “Team Dixie” in making preparations for the event this morning.

We are here to honor and recognize Senator Johnny Isakson with the National Association of Manufacturers Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence. The award goes to senators and representatives whose voting records on key manufacturing votes demonstrate an understanding of and support for manufacturing’s key role in our economy and society.

I would like to stress that this is not a campaign rally or a fundraiser and is no way a political or campaign activity. It is an event to say thank you to Senator Isakson for his efforts in the 110th Congress on issue’s important to manufacturers. However, I am sure Senator Isakson would not mind hearing from you, as he is seeking re-election.

Dixie Industrial Finishing was founded in 1960 to provide electroplating services to a wide variety of industries to include; construction products, fasteners, automotive, aerospace, agricultural equipment, earth moving equipment, lawn & garden, material handling, electronic cabinetry and many other industries, including sign frames for real estate sales. Dixie is part of the manufacturing sector by adding value to our customers manufactured parts. Dixie makes these parts look better, work better and last longer.

On display this morning are some of the products that have assemblies and sub-assemblies of parts manufactured by our customers and coated with some of the various surface treatment finishes Dixie offers.

Also to demonstrate the importance of manufacturing and how it affects other business sectors of the economy, those attending this morning are from the following industries; manufacturing, metal finishing, packaging, material handling, transportation, software, educators, chemical suppliers, accounting, legal profession, economic development, investment advisors, banking, commercial real estate development and trade associations. Each of these industries is dependant on a strong viable domestic manufacturing economy in

order to survive and perhaps grow in these unprecedented difficult times in our economy.

Last month for the first time in the almost 50 year history of our organization Dixie Industrial Finishing Company, Inc. was forced to lay off nineteen people. Ten of those were from the temporary workforce and nine of these workers had been with Dixie for a time ranging from 1 to 25 years. It was an emotional time for both management and those that suffered the job loss.

In 2005 Dixie was recognized with the Governor's Award as Manufacturer of the Year, Small Category. Senator Isakson wrote a letter in support of Dixie's nomination of this prestigious award based on Dixie's continued advocacy, for domestic manufacturing, both in Georgia and Washington.

A 1966 graduate of the University of Georgia, Senator Isakson spent the next few years serving in the Georgia Air National Guard – and managing Northside Realty, a small, family-owned real estate business in Cobb County.

In 1974, Senator Isakson was elected to serve in the Georgia Legislature – a position that he held for 17 years.

In 1999, Senator Isakson was elected to serve in his first of three terms in the United States House of Representatives.

Senator Isakson was then elected to represent Georgia in the United States Senate in 2004.

As you can tell, Senator Isakson is no stranger to political service. He has spent over 30 years serving his fellow Georgians with a common-sense and result-oriented approach to business.

Senator Isakson currently serves on six Senate committees, all of which have jurisdiction over education, healthcare, transportation, foreign policy, veteran's affairs, jobs and small businesses.

As we all know, what happens in Washington, DC has the potential to profoundly affect all of us here in Georgia and that is never more true than on such issues as international trade, unfair trade policies, energy supply, health

care and much needed legal reform, among others. And it is why Senator Isakson's support of a pro-growth, pro-manufacturing agenda are so important. Smaller government, lower taxes, less regulation, freer trade and most important fair trade: They are all ingredients of stronger economic growth, more and better jobs and higher living standards for American working families. Most, if not all, of us here today believe that American manufacturers are critical to America's economic well-being and national defense. But the same can't be said for all law makers in Washington, as we know from the amount of potentially damaging legislation that's proposed each year.

In 2007 Senator Isakson worked closely with the National Association of Surface Finishing and NAM in opposition of the OSHA Chromium Proposed Exposure Limits. The limits at the time were 52 micrograms per cubic liter. OSHA was proposing 1 microgram per cubic liter. The final result's was 5 micrograms per cubic liter. If OSHA had prevailed it would have put an enormous financial burden on an already heavily regulated metal finishing industry, forcing some out of business and continue to move manufacturing out of the country.

This is the fifth time that Senator Isakson has won the *NAM Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence*. He earned this distinction three previous times in the House of Representatives and two times in the Senate. In fact – Senator Isakson has only disagreed with the NAM's position 1 time in 5 Congresses.

We're fortunate to have Senator Isakson in Washington, advocating policies that will allow us to grow, create domestic manufacturing jobs, expand internationally and stay ahead of our global competition.

On behalf of Dixie Industrial Finishing and the Georgia Industry Association, it gives me great pleasure to present you with the *NAM Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence*. Thank you, Senator Isakson for your courage and great work on behalf of manufacturing, and all industries and jobs that are critical to the success of manufacturing.