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Press Release

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ODOM AND COBB: WILLIAMSON DELEGATION, CASADA SHOULD CONDEMN STATEMENT

Former Senator Bryson asks GM to 'die with dignity'

(Nashville) — House Democratic Leader Gary Odom and Rep. Ty Cobb Thursday called on state Rep. Glen Casada to condemn a statement made by former state Sen. Jim Bryson, who said General Motors should “die with dignity.”

“I’m asking Chairman Casada and the other members of the Williamson County delegation on behalf of their districts to condemn this statement that calls for the end of thousands of jobs,” said Odom (D-Nashville). “For a former lawmaker to call for the end of a giant corporation at the expense of thousands of Tennessee jobs makes no sense to me and I would think that Glen would feel the same way with the Saturn plant employing so many of his constituents.”

Saturn in Spring Hill was launched by General Motors Corp. more than 17 years ago and currently employs more than 3,200 Tennesseans

Rep. Ty Cobb (D-Columbia), whose district in Maury County is home to Saturn, said the loss of GM would not only mean jobs at Saturn but at Bridgestone, Johnson Controls and other suppliers.

“It is sad that we have elected officials who are out of touch with the working men and women of Tennessee,” Cobb said

Bryson, who formerly represented Williamson County in the state Senate, in a blog Thursday morning essentially called for the end of General Motors, the owner of the Tennessee Saturn plant.

“I feel bad for people who will lose their jobs. However, GM has been uncompetitive for a long time,” Bryson wrote. “When the government doesn’t allow non-competitive businesses to die, it undermines our economic system.”

Bryson not only was the Senator representing Williamson County, he also was the unsuccessful Republican nominee for governor in 2006. Williamson County is represented by Casada (R-College Grove), Sen. Jack Johnson (R-College Grove), Rep. Charles Sargent (R-Franklin) and Rep. Philip Johnson (R-Pegram).

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