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LDEQ Secretary Visit Highlights Environmental and Industry Collaboration

Geismar, LA — Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) recently visited BASF’s Geismar facility, accompanied by State Representative Alonzo Knox. The tour underscored BASF’s unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship while simultaneously fostering economic growth in the region.

During the visit, Secretary Giacometto engaged with BASF leadership and observed the facility’s robust practices aimed at addressing the ecological needs of Louisiana. The Geismar site stands as the largest private employer in Ascension Parish, with a dedicated workforce of 1,300 full-time employees and 32 production units. These units are responsible for manufacturing a diverse array of chemicals that play a crucial role in everyday consumer products. BASF’s chemistries can be found in items people use every day, including laundry,



Secretary Giacometto and Rep. Alonzo Knox tour BASF’s Geismar facility highlighting

pharmaceuticals, detergent, skincare products, diapers, mattresses, running shoes, carpeting, paints, and much more. Notably, the facility has made significant strides in enhancing operational efficiency, reducing power consumption, and implementing advanced safety measures, resulting in a remarkable 30 percent reduction in air and land emissions since 2015. To date, over \$1 billion has been invested at the Geismar site since 2009.

“BASF is demonstrating that the goals of environmental integrity and economic advancement can coexist harmoniously,” **stated Secretary Giacometto.** “Their visionary approach embodies the essential elements necessary for the growth of our state

As a regulatory agency, LDEQ values the proactive measures taken by industries like BASF in self-regulating their operations to promote cleaner air and cleaner water. Such initiatives not only enhance environmental quality but also underscore the importance of collaboration between industry and regulatory bodies in achieving sustainable development goals.

Representative Knox, who was a member of the SCR30 Community Air Task Force, noted the significance of the tour in providing insight into industry operations. “This tour was an invaluable opportunity to introduce me to the industry and its practices,” he remarked. “I witnessed firsthand how BASF employs cutting-edge technologies and safety protocols to minimize emissions while ensuring the safety of both employees and the surrounding community. The dedication of the men and women who work here is a testament to their commitment to Louisiana’s environment.”

Cara Madzy, BASF’s Senior Director of Environmental, Health, Safety and Security, emphasized the company’s ongoing efforts. “BASF continuously seeks to enhance production efficiencies across the entire value chain. Our focus extends beyond minimizing emissions during manufacturing; we are also exploring ways to reduce emissions associated with power consumption and raw material usage,” Madzy explained. “Creating chemistry for a sustainable future is at our core, which includes fostering a healthier, more prosperous, and innovative environment for our employees, neighbors, and the community at large.”

BASF’s significant contributions to the local economy are evident, as the company ranks as the largest taxpayer in Ascension Parish, contributing over \$28.6 million annually in local and state taxes. With three operational facilities in Louisiana, including Geismar, North Geismar, and Vidalia, BASF remains committed to both economic development and environmental responsibility.