

Good Afternoon.

My name is Russell Whatley, and I am the Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep dealer in Mineral Wells, TX. We are located 40 miles west of Ft Worth, and have a population of 17,000.

Today, over 200 towns in Texas that have franchised dealerships have only Chrysler, Ford, or GM stores--that is over 2/3rds of our Texas towns with dealerships.

My Grandfather opened this dealership in 1919, and kept it open through the depression, World War II, and countless economic setbacks.

In the 90 years that we have been here, 36 other new-car dealerhips have come and gone in our town. We have stayed open because we are committed to customer service.

Today, Mineral Wells is a fast growing little city, with 5 new hotel chains under construction, new schools, new restaurants, and many corporate re-locations.

To meet the needs of a growing city, we have purchased 5 acres of land on a busy highway, hired a builder, and drawn up plans for a new building. These plans have been shown to the Dealer Placement people at Chrysler.

We are NOT a cost to Chrysler. We pay for everything we use, and we take all the risk. We are Chryslers' customer. In a typical month we pay Chrysler over \$2500 in "fixed expenses" alone, plus all the parts, and vehicles, which are paid for, in full, up front.

All dealers, like us, sponsor school events, Little League Baseball, Pee-Wee Football, Rodeo, and many other local events.

In just the past 40 months alone, our dealership has gross sales of almost \$18M, or \$443,000 per month. We have collected, and paid, the State and County over \$805,000 in taxes, or \$20,126 per month. Plus, we have paid the County \$52,668 in property taxes, and fees. And, this is all in a "down economy", and does not include income or payroll taxes.

I was told in 2007 that our area enjoyed a 20% market share. While we did not sell every customer, local people still depend on our service, Recalls, and Warranty work. We service 1,548 vehicles per year on average. I was told that if WE were not here, another dealer certainly would be.

To be arbitrarily closed, with no compensation, is wasteful and devastating. There is no reason to close profitable dealerships which contribute to Chrysler. But, another issue here is the 3 week time frame.

You just can't close a dealership in 3 weeks, it is not

possible. Over the past 3-4 months we were practically forced to order heavy inventories. We were told, "Chrysler has no cash-flow", that they "Rely on the dealers", and that if we do not order vehicles "we will all be out of business". We were also told they "will remember who did not help".

Now, we have an 8 month supply of vehicles and only 3 weeks to clear them out. Other dealers are full, Chrysler Financial is gone, and GMAC is not on board yet. There is just no place to go. Chrysler says they "will try" to put buyers and sellers together, and they will "endeavor" to "assist" in selling these cars, but the contract we had to sign clearly states they have "no-responsibility", and have "no-obligation" to do anything. After June 9th, we cannot sell these cars as new, used, or even to other dealers. We need a firm, real plan, not just what they "will try" to do.

Plus, we have warehouses full of parts that cannot even be identified after June 9th. They will be impossible to sell, just a total loss.

I have employees with families who have worked at this dealership for years, and I worry about their loss, and what they will do. A 90 -year investment is just gone and neither my family, nor my employees have any say about it.

We have done nothing wrong, and should not be suffering this loss. I hope you can help us.

Thank you for your time, and interest