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Politicians empathize with Connersville over DOE's decision on Carbon Motors Ioan

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Politicians representing Connersville at the state and federal levels this week expressed great disappointment in the decision by the Department of Energy to reject a \$310 million loan request by Carbon Motors.

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels issued a statement expressing disappointment for the people of Connersville who have worked for the past 21/2 years to bring the project to fruition. Last week, during a visit to the Franklin County Public Library in Brookville, Ind., the governor had said he remained hopeful that the company would get the loan and begin production of the first purpose-built police car at the former Visteon plant on the city's north side.

Goy, Mitch Daniels

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But those hopes appeared dashed with this week's announcement, and Daniels was not alone in expressing his disappointment in the announcement.

Tom Knollman represents District 55, which includes Connersville, in the Indiana House. On Thursday, Knollman took a break from the busy House floor to discuss the situation.

"Thirty months is a long time to wait,"
Knollman said. "It looked like it was going to
be a go, but it looks like the political
squabbling in Washington got carried away."

Knollman said it is difficult to tell which side is responsible for the loan rejection, but he

pointed out that conservative Republicans don't want to hand out any money.

"I am not ready to rule anything out," Knollman said when asked about the possibility that private investment or a revisiting of the loan process could still get Carbon Motors up and running.

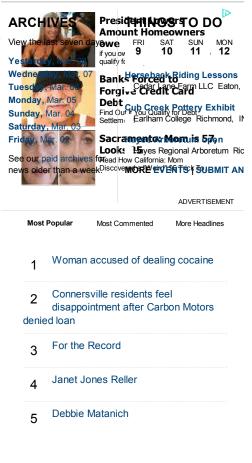
"Let's hope it does, because Connersville needs those jobs."

Indiana Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg), who represents District 42, which includes Connersville, echoed Knollman's comments.

"I am very disappointed with the announcement by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on the loan denial for the Carbon Motors plant in Connersville. Fayette County -- leading the state in unemployment -- needs these 1,500 jobs," Leising said. "There is no doubt that the failure of Solyndra has led to the DOE's reluctance to make loans under the technology vehicle manufacturing program."

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