

## Press Statement – Shaw Plant

October 9, 2008

Needless to say I and, I am sure, the members of the Dade Industrial Development Authority are extremely disappointed in Shaw's decision to close the plant here in Trenton (see Shaw's attached press release). We have been working diligently to formalize the agreement we had with Shaw about the Trenton plant and the legal work was almost complete. Our collective work to keep the Shaw plant open in Trenton was much less about taxes than it always was about people and jobs. That was and continues to be our primary goal. The people of our community are our highest priority.

I spoke this morning with Senator Mullis, County Executive Brandon, and Mayor Harris. It is all our goal to do whatever we can, as a community, and to work with the state to have them do all they can for the employees of the Shaw plant. It is very early to fill in many details but it is our intent to work with all relevant parties to make sure everything that can be done is being done.

We clearly intend to market the Shaw facility to other employers. We have asked Shaw to prepare all the necessary information for us and others to do that. We intend to make sure that VW and its suppliers know that there is a facility in Dade County that is ideally placed to support their plans. We will work with Allan Ward, President of the Dade Chamber of Commerce, to move ahead on the Georgia Work Ready Program so the Shaw employees and other county citizens are certified as skilled employees in their job searches. And, we will begin work on creating a job fair to give the Shaw employees every chance to find other jobs. As we determine other steps that we and others can take we will keep the community informed.

Finally, to the employees of the Trenton Shaw plant, you have our deepest regret about what has happened and our sincerest promise that the Dade Industrial Authority, the Dade County Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Development Authority will do everything we can to assist our citizens that have been impacted by this event.



Peter Cervelli  
Chairman, Dade Industrial Authority



Allan Ward  
President, Dade Chamber of Commerce



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## Shaw Announces Close of Trenton Facility

**Dalton, Ga. – October 9, 2008** – In response to decreased market demand for certain flooring products, Shaw Industries Group, Inc. will close Plant 76, a spun yarn facility in Trenton, GA. The closing impacts about 440 employees and plant production will cease around the second or third week of November.

According to Hal Long, executive vice president of operations, the company is experiencing over-capacity in certain segments of the business. “The widely-publicized downturn in the housing market has caused consumer demand to fluctuate and shift. Changing customer preferences in the market necessitate that the company respond to emerging purchasing trends and decrease its production in areas experiencing significant declines,” he says.

As the company transitions out of this facility, Shaw will work diligently to place Trenton employees at other Shaw locations, and will partner with the Georgia Department of Labor on-site to provide one-on-one sessions to counsel, explain benefits, and provide out-placement and retraining. In addition, Shaw will organize job fairs with regional employers to help identify future career opportunities for affected employees that do not shift to other Shaw plants.

“On behalf of the entire Shaw Industries family, I want to thank the employees of the Trenton plant and the surrounding community for your years of dedicated support and service,” says Long. “We are extremely proud of our Trenton associates and want to assure them that this decision does not come lightly. Many key public officials have been outspoken in their support of Shaw’s presence in Trenton. City and County officials have worked very hard to help us maintain our operations. I especially want to thank Georgia State Senator Jeff Mullis and Peter Cervelli, Chair of the Dade Industrial Authority, for all their tireless efforts on behalf of the Trenton facility.”

### **About Shaw**

Shaw Industries Group, Inc., a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., is the world’s largest carpet manufacturer and a leading floor covering provider with \$5 billion in annual sales and approximately 30,000 associates. Headquartered in Dalton, Ga., the company manufactures and distributes carpeting, rugs, hardwood, laminate and ceramic tile for residential and commercial applications worldwide. A recognized leader in environmental stewardship, Shaw has implemented hundreds of sustainability initiatives and cradle to cradle design solutions, collectively termed the Shaw Green Edge. For more information, visit [www.shawfloors.com](http://www.shawfloors.com).