

German Parliament Members Visit Lehigh Cement Company



Joachim Poss (left) and Ludwig Stiegler (right)

Two members of the German Parliament (Bundestag) visited Lehigh Cement Company on April 11 as part of a multi-day trip to New York, the Lehigh Valley and Washington DC.

Joachim Poss of Westphalia is Deputy Chairman of the Socialist Democratic Party (SPD) in the Bundestag. Ludwig Stiegler of Bavaria chairs Bundestag and SPD committees on economics, technology, labor and tourism.

The purpose of their trip to the United States was to reinforce strong, trust-based business relations, to observe German-owned manufacturing companies, to visit with employees and to discuss

government programs related to construction.

“Our discussions covered a number of subjects, for example, comparing business practices in the two countries, exploring government programs, such as tax policies and infrastructure funding, and sharing examples of employer and employee relationships,” commented Erhard, Lehigh President and CEO.

“We were honored to host these distinguished guests and to educate them about Lehigh, the cement industry and the business climate in North America.

“American and German economic institutions have much in common: free markets, fair labor policies, customer focus and government partnerships,” he said. “But we sometimes solve problems differently, so exchanging ideas can benefit both parties and lead to a greater harmonization between our two countries.”

Jerry Miller, Evansville Assistant Plant Manager, organized a tour of the Evansville Plant, at which the guests not only learned about making cement, but how the employees at Evansville work together. Albrecht Schall, Vice President Cement Operations for Lehigh North, said, “While perhaps not as modern as some of the cement plants in Germany, I was pleased to show our guests the plant and the recent improvements we have made to save energy and cut emissions. I think they were impressed by the way all levels of plant employees cooperate, especially in our current high cement demand environment. We are especially proud of our programs to use alternative fuels and raw materials at Evansville, as well as our commendable safety record.”

The itinerary also included visits with B. Braun, a German-owned medical supply company with operations in the Lehigh Valley, the German-American Chamber of Commerce in New York City, several banks and investment advisers, members of the German delegation to the United Nations and economic development staff at the United Nations.