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News Release

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AUB SETTLES COLLINS & AIKMAN SUIT

DETROIT--In a court-ordered mediation session yesterday, Athens Utilities Board reached a settlement agreement with trustees of the Collins & Aikman holding company relative to a suit that the auto-parts maker initiated after filing for bankruptcy in 2005.

The suit centered on utility payments the company made in its final months of operation in Athens.

AUB General Manager Eric Newberry represented the utility board at the mediation.

“I am pleased to announce on behalf of the board that we have successfully settled the lawsuit for \$90,500. Considering that the original suit was for more than \$800,000 and that proceeding through the courts would have resulted in at least another year of legal fees, out-of-state court appearances, and long hours of preparation, we feel that the settlement is certainly in the best interest of our customers,” Newberry said.

Newberry said that preparing AUB board members and staff for the process was long and arduous but that the board had outstanding legal support throughout the effort.

“I want to say a special thank you for the efforts of our AUB counsel, Mrs. Bridget Willhite, and our bankruptcy counsel, Mr. Thomas Ray. Their efforts on behalf of our customers resulted in a successful settlement to a lawsuit that could have had long-reaching effects not only for AUB rate-payers but possibly for utilities throughout the United States,” Newberry stated.

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