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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL CONSTRUCTION AUDIENCE APPLAUDS GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS

HOUSTON (August 14, 2015) – [Mobil Steel International, Inc.](#) hosted three state elected officials to hear national economist, Anirban Basu, share positive economic information about the U.S., Texas and Houston economies. Basu’s message of growth and economic momentum for the region was well-received by the elected officials and the local construction industry audience hosted by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Houston.

In his after-breakfast address, Basu shared that the United States economy is projected to grow 3.1% in 2015. Basu also noted that every state currently has economic momentum. Texas, which is in a state of expansion, collects more taxes today than before the recession and had an unemployment rate of just 4.3% in May 2015. In Houston, job growth was up 2.1% from May 2014 to May 2015. Houston’s unemployment rate of 4.2% ranks 5th lowest among the 20 largest U.S. metropolitan areas.

In specific regards to the construction industry, Basu shared that the biggest challenge is a skilled labor shortage. This shortage is leading to surges in higher wages for skilled laborers. Despite the shortage, Texas added 20,300 construction jobs from May 2014 to May 2015, good for 3rd most in the United States. More than 10% of those new construction jobs were placed in Houston.

House members from the Houston delegation appreciated the good news about the region. Texas State Representatives Ed Thompson (District 29), Dennis Paul (District 129), and Wayne Faircloth (District 23) joined Mobil Steel President & CEO, Leonard A. Bedell, and Business Development Manager, Stuart Robles, at the breakfast event last month.

“Mr. Basu’s presentation was very enlightening and provided plenty of positive takeaways for our industry and city. It is clear to me that it is a great time to be in Houston, Texas,” said Bedell. “Additionally, I was thrilled that three of our state representatives were able to join our table and hear that their hard work is helping lead the way to a strong local economy. Mobil Steel is grateful for their leadership.”

About Mobil Steel International, Inc.

[Mobil Steel International, Inc.](#) fabricates steel used in some of the world's essential industries: chemical, manufacturing, petroleum, communication, clean fuels, and power utilities, as well as commercial construction. Mobil Steel, which has been at its South Wayside Drive facility in Houston for 45 years, has a production capacity of more than 1,000 tons per month in its 80,000 square feet of plant and office facilities under roof, providing flexibility to manage multiple projects. The 8.5-acre site is located within major freeway access to the refining and petrochemical complex in the Gulf Coast region. Mobil Steel is quality certified by the [American Institute of Steel Construction](#) (AISC). Mobil Steel is active in [Associated Builders and Contractors](#), [Association of Chemical Industry of Texas](#), [Associated General Contractors](#), and [American Welding Society](#). The company is a sponsoring member of [Economic Alliance Houston Port Region](#) and a member of the [Pasadena Chamber of Commerce](#). Mobil Steel is a registered small business with the Small Business Administration. For information about Mobil Steel visit www.mobilsteel.com.

Photo Caption: Mobil Steel guests enjoyed hearing positive economic news for Houston and Texas at the Associated Builders and Contractors Greater Houston breakfast. Pictured are Stuart Robles, Business Development manager, Mobil Steel; Dennis Paul, State Representative, District 129; Leonard A. Bedell, President & CEO, Mobil Steel; Wayne Faircloth, State Representative, District 23; Ed Thompson, State Representative, District 29; and, Dennis Winkler, COO, Winkler Public Relations.