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Washington County, Pennsylvania attracts 80 Economic Development and Infrastructure Projects for over \$1.1 billion in capital investment in 2016

County invests additional \$6.7 million and leverages additional \$12 million through Local Share Account Program

Over 1,000 Jobs Created/Retained

(Southpointe Business Park, Washington County, PA) – Washington County, Pennsylvania- which leads the Greater Pittsburgh Region in energy production and industrial/commercial development-continues to maintain its strong position among Southwestern Pennsylvania counties in terms of economic growth and job creation.

To emphasize this growth, the Washington County Board of Commissioners joined today with over 250 Washington County business leaders at the Hilton Garden Inn/Southpointe to highlight 80 economic development projects that account for over \$1.1 billion in capital investment in Washington County during the past year. These projects were also complemented by over \$6.7 million in additional investments the county has made in 2016 through the Washington County Local Share Account (LSA) -a fund capitalized by gaming revenues. These LSA investments are being leveraged by an additional \$12 million in public and private resources.

“Washington County has been the true exception in the Greater Pittsburgh Region in creating new economic growth, new job opportunities and county-wide expansion,” stated Larry Maggi, Chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners. “In 2016, our public and private partners announced \$1,179,658,675 in new business investment and an additional 1,062 created/retained jobs in Washington County. This tremendous growth in business investment

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and job creation was driven by numerous sectors of our economy-energy, commercial/retail development, infrastructure and manufacturing. We are proud of that success especially in creating new job opportunities for our residents,” Chairman Maggi commented.

Commissioner Maggi also pointed to Washington County’s continued leadership in the energy sector despite a slowdown in the industry. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the county led the state in the number of unconventional wells drilled in 2016 with 136 wells out of the state total of 502 being drilled in the county. This activity resulted in the county leading the state in the amount of Act 13 money received last year-\$5,688,943.13.

Also, Washington County led the state in the number of permits issued which will continue the county’s position as the leading county in Pennsylvania in the development of the Marcellus Shale.

“Our success in the energy sector, even with the downturn, has enabled many of our residents to find new opportunities and jobs. In fact, five of the state’s top shale gas producers, ranked by MCF of natural gas produced statewide, are in our county: Range Resources, Rice Energy, CONSOL Energy, Noble Energy and Vantage Energy Appalachia,” Commissioner Maggi stated. He further stated that seven of the largest 25 energy companies ranked by number of employees are also located in Washington County: Range Resources, CONSOL Energy, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Coen Oil Company, Rockwater Energy Solutions, Guttman Group and MarkWest.

Commissioner Maggi further stated that the county has experienced tremendous investment from transportation and infrastructure development projects. “There is no question that transportation and infrastructure projects have been tremendous economic drivers for Washington County over the past years. Starpointe Business Park in Hanover Township was awarded a \$1.8 million Business in Our Sites Loan for expanded infrastructure and the Washington County Airport is investing \$5.2 million for the development of its Northside Hangar. Projects such as the replacement/expansion of the Monongahela Locks & Dams (\$1.7 billion project cost), Interstate 70 Bentleyville Interchange (\$77.245 million project cost) and Interstate 70/Interstate 79/Route 136 Interchange (\$57 million project cost)-all will lead to significant infrastructure improvements and increase opportunities for economic development in the county,” Maggi stated.

Maggi also expressed the importance the county placed on downtown revitalizations in 2016. “The county continues to encourage the redevelopment of our downtowns in areas such as Washington, Donora and Claysville. However, each community utilizes different strengths in their developments. For instance, there is no question that the Main Street Farmers’ Market Pavilion has been a success in attracting people to downtown Washington, but in Donora we have been fortunate to land three manufacturing companies-Retal Industries, Barchemy and Tech Met, Inc.; in Donora Industrial Park, which is located near downtown and will bring new jobs

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and investment. Also, Claysville is seeing a \$2.4 million investment in new patio homes which will also create foot traffic on those streets. Downtown development is not a ‘one-size-fits all’ proposition and we are encouraged that each area has developed strategies that reflect their individual communities and characters,” Maggi commented.

Local Share, Local Investments

In addition to the impressive economic development successes in the past year, Washington County invests in infrastructure, business parks and community development projects through the Washington County Local Share Account Program (LSA). The LSA program is Washington County’s share of gross revenues from The Meadows Casino that has been directed by the commissioners to economic development projects in the county. The program has been investing in Washington County projects since 2008.

Reflecting on the LSA’s successes over the past several years, Washington County Commissioner Diana Irey Vaughan stated “Since 2008, the LSA has invested more than \$84 million in new economic, community and industrial development projects. However, more impressive is the leverage that we have been able to realize from these investments. In that same timeframe, we have been able to match our \$84 million in LSA funds with nearly \$355 million in additional federal, state and local monies for a total of over \$439 million in total impact.”

“This year alone, the LSA program invested \$6.7 million and leveraged over \$12 million in economic and community projects for Washington County. These investments in economic development such as the Greater Washington Area Business Incubator in the City of Washington and the Charleroi Façade Improvement Program in Charleroi Borough as well as community development investments such as the Brownson House Recreation Facility Project and Handicapped Accessibility projects at the Beth Center Senior Center and in the City of Monongahela allow our county to benefit from both economic growth and increasing our quality of life,” Irey Vaughan said. She relayed that investments such as new infrastructure in communities such as Bentleyville, East Bethlehem Township, Union Township, Hanover Township, and South Franklin Township as well as projects to prepare communities for future development by eliminating blight in the communities of Marianna and Charleroi Boroughs were priority investments.

Commissioner Irey Vaughan also relayed the importance of organizations and communities working together on joint LSA projects. “Over the past several years, we have witnessed LSA projects that involve multiple municipalities or organizations jointly applying for funds. For instance, this year the commissioners awarded funds to Monongahela Valley Hospital and Washington Health System for a joint project to increase community education and training for first responders and health care workers; The Washington School District working with the LeMoyné Center and the Academy for Adolescent Health on community pathways and the Trinity Area School District working with the Washington County Food Bank on a Hydroponic

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Freight Farm Partnership to teach students about agriculture and provide healthy food to the Food Bank. I am particularly proud of these projects as they demonstrate business and government working together to leverage their resources and address our local needs with new, innovative programs. Of course, we work with the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development on their final approval of the grants, but our success with the program has always been listening to the priorities of our Washington County communities and directing resources to them,” Irey Vaughan stated.

Quality of Life in a Quality Location

Washington County is not only seeing a direct return on its economic and community development investments, but also in its vibrant tourism industry according to Washington County Commissioner Harlan G. Shober, Jr. According to the most recent report prepared for the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, direct visitor spending in Washington County’s tourism industry is \$760 million per year. This business and leisure travel spending supports nearly 6,000 jobs and generates over \$152 million in federal and state tax revenues. While the county’s top attractions are The Meadows Casino and Tanger Outlets- each attracting millions of visitors annually-Commissioner Shober also pointed out the importance of the county’s unique tourism assets.

“Washington County is fortunate to have major tourism drivers in gaming and shopping, but we also have several attractions that we are proud to call unique to the county. Assets such as the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum in Arden, Aquatorium in Monongahela and the LeMoyne House in Washington are treasures that can only be found in Washington County. In addition, celebrations and festivals like Houston Pumpkin Festival, Pennsylvania Bavarian Oktoberfest and DICK’s Sporting Goods PONY League World Series all have their homes in our county and we work with the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency to promote them to a regional, domestic and even international audience,” Commissioner Shober relayed.

To demonstrate that promotion, the commissioner pointed to the significant investment the county makes in its tourism assets. “Last year the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency invested over \$183,080 in grant money for marketing and capital improvement tourism projects. In addition, we invested several million in Marcellus Shale monies in new improvements in our county-owned parks. This is also combined with the investments the Washington County Local Share Account is making in facilities such as Meadowcroft Rockshelter Visitor Center Expansion in Jefferson Township, the Washington Park-Main Pavilion Restoration and the Canonsburg Lake Restoration project. While our first priorities are economic development, infrastructure and job creation projects, we understand that investing in quality of life and tourism also increases our county’s desirability as a great place to work, raise a family and for recreation,” Shober commented.

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The commissioner also discussed the importance of private investment in tourism and in the county. “Private sector investment in hotels, amenities and tourism attractions is very visible in the county. However, we have partnered with the private sector tourism development in some very non-traditional ways. For instance, the All-Clad Factory Outlet Sale at the Washington County Fairgrounds attracts thousands of people from around the world each year and we are working with the company to ensure their customers are exploring the county, dining at our restaurants and staying at our hotels when they are not purchasing the world’s finest cookware which is made in Washington County, I would like to add,” Commissioner Shober proudly stated.

In concluding the event, Jeff M. Kotula, President of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency remarked “It is important to remember that the successes we are experiencing are the result of years of strategic investments in our county, low taxes and a long-term unified vision between the public and private sectors. We have jointly advanced opportunities, overcome challenges and found success by working together for the good of Washington County. Our future success will be realized by exactly the same thing.”



2016 Washington County Company Expansion/Attraction Projects

5th Street Escape Room

American Petroleum Partners LLC

APR Supply Co.

Aspen Dental

Barchemy

Barre3

Bethel Bakery

Black Diamond

Boomtown Grill

Chick fil-a Express

Claudia Williams Development Project

Coal Tipple Brewery

Columbia Gas

Commerce Street Partners LLC

D& S Industrial Fasteners

Dallas Airmotive

Dickey's Barbecue

Dollar General

DreBo America

Dunkin Donuts

Dunn Avenue, City of Washington

Elior North America

Fabulous Homemade Cookies

Family Dollar - Bentleyville

Faster Fitness

FirstEnergy Corp.

FirstLight HomeCare

Forty Bar & Grille

Four Points Barbeque and Brewery

Four Star Pipe and Supply

Goldfish Swim School

Healthy Pet Products

Independence-Cross Creek Joint Authority

Jansens & Dieperink

JB Mechanical Inc.

Johnathan Michael's Boutique

M&J Wilkow

Mad Mex Lakeside Restaurant

Please see reverse side

Mattress Firm

MMR

Mon Valley Sewage Authority

Monaro LLC

Mylan NV (2)

NVR

On Pointe Dentistry

Orchid Body Salon

O'Reilly Auto Parts

Pampered Paw Resort

Penn DOT (4)

Pennatronics

Presbyterian SeniorCare

Primrose Child Care Center

PTV XIII - Dollar General

PW Catering

Red Pump Spirits

Redevelopment Authority of the
County of Washington

Retal PA, LLC

Revolution Cryogenic Plant

Starpointe Business Park Phase 1C

Stone House Vintage Market

Sunoco CNG Fueling Station