

12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF THE MID-ATLANTIC ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CENTER IN GREENSVILLE COUNTY

Attached for your reference, please find copied correspondence from Dave Whittington, Greenville County Administrator, seeking our consideration in supporting their latest economic development initiative, the “mega-sized” Mid-Atlantic Advance Manufacturing Center (MAMaC).

Located on the west side of I-95 three miles north of Emporia, the center site is slightly larger than 1,500 acres and is the only certified “mega-site” in Virginia, and one of only ten nationwide. The site has already received serious attention from Toyota and Volkswagon as they considered locations for new assembly plants.

Greenville County is developing grant applications to the VEDP and the Virginia Tobacco Commission to assist in their acquisition and development of the site with such things as water and sewer improvements, natural gas lines, electrical transmission facilities, and road and railroad improvements.

While conventional thinking may cause one to conclude that this project is competition to our own economic development initiatives, that type of thinking is short-sighted. Our competition is not Greenville County or Isle of Wight County or the City of Suffolk – rather it’s communities in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama. To the contrary, Southampton County stands to benefit substantially if Greenville County is successful in marketing the mega-site to a major employer. Southampton County already has more than 250 workers that commute to Greenville County every day – more than two-thirds of Southampton County is located within 30 miles of the MAMaC. In addition to the employment opportunities the MAMaC would provide, there is also an opportunity to locate its suppliers in our own industrial parks.

Attached for your consideration please find a resolution that supports Greenville County’s efforts in developing the site and their efforts in obtaining grant funds from the VEDP and the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

While Mr. Whittington will be on vacation, I expect that either Jack Davenport (their Economic Development Director) or Natalie Slate (their Deputy County Administrator) will be with us to answer questions.

MOTION REQUIRED: If the Board is so inclined, A motion is required to adopt the attached resolution.