



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

August 2010

This letter is a testimonial to anyone currently or considering doing business in Stanly County, North Carolina. Our company, Chicago Tube & Iron, is a 95 year old privately held company based in Chicago. We have nine other facilities, all in the Midwest, with our manufacturing site in Locust, North Carolina being the only facility in this region. We have been doing business in Stanly County for ten years now and are very pleased with the support the local government and various civic organizations such as chamber agencies have provided.

Our business has grown significantly in the past ten years and we knew that our current facility in Oakboro would not support the kind of growth we were experiencing. My biggest testament to Stanly County is that we did a very extensive study of the region to ensure we made the right investment decision in where we built the new manufacturing facility. The analysis was clear that we should remain in the County and build the new state of the art facility in Locust.

There were a number of reasons for that decision. Locust is only thirty minutes from Charlotte, a major city with necessary resources. The infrastructure, including the four lane 24/27 highway from I-485 through the county, was in place. Most important, the area has a good supply of various skilled labor that we need for our business. I have managed manufacturing plants all over the country for almost 25 years and this is the best work force I have ever had. We've experienced very little turnover and there is a good work ethic in the community. The local Stanly Community College has been very active in bringing students through our plant and has worked with us to understand what is important in developing future associates. When we moved to Locust we purchased additional property as our plan is to continue to grow our business, hire more local folks and be involved in this great community.

Sincerely,

Greg Hellmann
General Manager



Michelin has found Stanley County to be exceedingly business friendly. Local leaders, both within government, and in the private sector, work as a team to address the needs of business. This, and the pro-business environment created by state leadership of North Carolina, made Stanley County the logical choice for our recently announced expansion.

*Dick Wilkerson
President and Chairman
Michelin North America, Inc.*



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PLP has been a member of the Albemarle business community since 1982 when we relocated plants from Tucker Georgia and Palo Alto California and I can honestly say on behalf of our company that we have never looked backed and it has proven to be a wonderful decision to conduct business in a such a scenic location which is blessed on so many fronts. We have a world class workforce which we primarily recruited from the local community as the core of our business closely followed by excellent working relationships with a wide variety of local and regional vendors, probably the most important of which has been the City of Albemarle itself.

The city has proven to be a highly reliable provider of electric service to our facility, with essentially uninterrupted service provided for the past 28 years which is quite an accomplishment on their behalf considering all that it takes to make that type of feat a reality. Ironically, if anyone should know, it would be PLP because supporting electric utilities across the US and beyond has been at the core of our business since 1946. PLP also has excellent working relationships and high regard for all local and county government, educational and private businesses which are all essential to attracting key employees and operating a business which can and has directly impacted the quality of people's lives if and when natural catastrophes occur.

Our goal as a key PLP operation is stay exactly where we are geographically and continue to enjoy the splendor of Stanly County and hopefully to also continue down a path of ever increasing success and opportunity for our valued employees.

Respectfully,

John Ziebarth
Albemarle Plant Manager