



County Board of Marshall County, Illinois

COUNTY COURTHOUSE • P.O. BOX 328 • LACON, ILLINOIS 61540-0328

PHONE (309) 246-6325 • FAX (309) 246-3667

August 18, 2016

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Acting Director Sean McCarthy
500 East Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Director McCarthy,

We have enclosed a resolution from the Marshall County Board concerning our enterprise zone application. This resolution was passed by a unanimous vote of the county board at our August 11, 2016 board meeting.

The resolution that was passed by the county board requests that the county continue to be part of the enterprise zone program. The continuance of this designation is vital to the well-being of Marshall County and our communities.

In regard to Criterion 10, we have included the final abstract for Marshall County for your review.

We would like to thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you need any assistance or have further questions, please contact Melody Weber, Marshall County Clerk, at 309-246-6325 or by email at coclerk@marshallcountyillinois.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Kroeschen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gary Kroeschen
Marshall County Board Chairman

Enclosure



August 18, 2016

County Board of Marshall County, Illinois

COUNTY COURTHOUSE • P.O. BOX 328 • LACON, ILLINOIS 61540-0328

PHONE (309) 246-6325 • FAX (309) 246-3667

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Acting Director Sean McCarthy
500 East Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Marshall County Enterprise Zone Resolution

Marshall County Board
Gary Kroeschen, Chairman

“Whereas, the existing enterprise zone has been a great benefit to Marshall County, the dissolution of the zone would be counterproductive to future and current business growth.”

“Whereas, the local labor market area (LLMA) for the proposed zone has had an average annual unemployment rate of at least 120% of the state’s annual average unemployment rate for the most recent calendar year; of the 203 census tracts in the LLMA, 81 tracts exceed the 120% threshold; there are 16 census tracts that exceed 200% of the state rate, four (4) over the 300% rate, and one (1) tract that exceeds 500% of the state unemployment rate for 2014.”

“Whereas, designation of the Marshall County Enterprise Zone (MCEZ) will result in the development of substantial employment opportunities; eleven (11) businesses in the MCEZ LLMA have committed to retaining a combined total of 529 jobs and creating an additional 279 jobs with a total investment of \$60,588,000; seventeen (17) support letters representing multiple industries in the LLMA are included with this application; designation will help provide jobs for the 25,700 workers that are currently available for employment; it must be noted that although this application is

for a new enterprise zone, that the existing MCEZ has been successful in retaining and attracting new businesses to the region; this successful economic tool is testament to results that can be achieved through regional cooperation and collaboration.”

“**Whereas**, part of the LLMA for the proposed MCEZ has a poverty rate of at least 120% according to the U.S. Census Bureau; the LLMA is extremely close (49.35%) to having 50% of students eligible to receive free and reduced lunch.”

“**Whereas**, the proposed MCEZ has a total of five (5) abandoned coal mine sites; however, upon further study additional coal mines have been identified adjacent to the proposed zone (Illinois State Geological Survey); there are two (2) brownfield sites within the zone; there has been one (1) Federal Disaster Declaration in the past three years in the proposed zone; declaration DR-4116 was issued on May 10, 2013 for severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding.”

“**Whereas**, the LLMA for the proposed MCEZ has experienced large downsizing and plant closures affecting more than 50 workers in the past five (5) years; there have been 6,502 employees laid off or terminated in the MCEZ LLMA during this time period; state and federal closures resulted in 454 employees being laid off or terminated during the past five (5) years.”

“**Whereas**, the LLMA for the proposed MCEZ has a high floor vacancy rate for commercial properties; commercial (retail) floor space vacancies totaled 23,930 square feet representing 6.86% of retail area in the LLMA.”

“**Whereas**, a tax plan has been created for the proposed MCEZ; based on this plan, enterprise zone certification will improve the state and local tax base by improving the state/local sales tax base, improving the state income tax base, and improving the local tax base.”

“**Whereas**, the proposed MCEZ has sufficient public infrastructure to support economic development; an inventory of the public infrastructure for the region has been compiled and a public infrastructure improvements and development plan has been created; the vast majority of communities within the MCEZ LLMA have sewer and water systems; all communities within the LLMA are served by ambulance, fire and police services.”

“Whereas, prior to 2015 Illinois high schools were required to provide the ACT Work Keys program; however, this requirement has been dropped by the state and as a result many high schools have ended the ACT Work Keys program; currently, 36 of the 92 schools (39%) in the MCEZ LLMA continue to provide the program; all 14 community colleges in the MCEZ LLMA offer some kind of manufacturing skills standard certification or industry based credentials.”

“Whereas, despite the many strengths of the region, there are clear signs of economic distress; the unemployment rate in part of the LLMA meets the 120% threshold of the state’s unemployment rate for the most recent calendar year; there are many people in the region who are underemployed as well; additionally there are thousands of square feet of vacant commercial space that could be utilized to generate additional tax revenue; large scale business downsizing and closings have also impacted the County’s economy that is strongly based in food production; abandoned coal mines and brownfields pose challenges to economic development; although the region has strong infrastructure, all municipalities have high priority projects that will take millions of the dollars to complete; certification of the proposed MCEZ will encourage new industries to locate in the zone; sales tax, income tax, and local property tax revenues will increase; the investment of economic developers will not only create jobs, they will improve the quality of life for many people and help build more resilient communities.

“Now therefore be it resolved, that the Marshall County Board strongly encourage the extension of the current enterprise zone in order to retain and create employment opportunities within the county.”

Signed on this 18th day of August, 2016 in Lacon, Illinois,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Kroeschen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Gary Kroeschen, Chairman
Marshall County Board