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**EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT APPROVES OVER \$100 MILLION TO
FUND 23 PROJECTS THAT WILL CREATE MORE THAN 630 JOBS
AND RETAIN OVER 1,500**

***Businesses, IDAs And Colleges To Receive State Funding That Will Leverage
Over \$822 Million In Investment***

Empire State Development today announced that its Board of Directors recently approved \$101.1 million in economic development resources for 23 projects that are spurring growth and opportunity in every region of the state. The funding supports projects that are creating 634 new jobs and retaining 1,531 existing New York State jobs – many of which have already been created or retained. The approved assistance is leveraging more than \$822 million in private investment and other public funding to support local businesses and projects that are strengthening local economies today, while building a strong foundation for future economic growth and job creation.

“The funding approved by the Board is supporting regionally significant projects that are fostering growth and creating new opportunities statewide,” said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky. “Whether it’s by aiding business expansion and retention, supporting local revitalization projects, or bolstering regional tourism, the funding approved today will boost economic activity from New York City to the Finger Lakes.”

Capital Region

Wellington Row/Eagle Street Garage (Capital Region – Albany County) – \$1,850,000

Eagle Street Corporation, a real estate holding company, will use grants of up to \$1,850,000 for a portion of the cost to construct a parking garage and redevelop five row properties into new commercial, retail and residential space in downtown Albany. This priority project aligns with the Capital Region Economic Development Council’s (CREDC) Opportunity Agenda priority, as it focuses on redevelopment and investment in the City of Albany.

Central New York Region

Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research Alliance, Inc. (Central New York Region – Onondaga County) – \$600,000

The Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research Alliance, Inc. (NUAIR) will use a grant of up to \$600,000 for a portion of the costs associated with developing, testing and educating companies on the integration of unmanned aerial systems into the national airspace system. Formed in Syracuse in 2012, NUAIR serves the Federal Aviation Administration and is a multi-region alliance of private industry, academic institutions and military assets and operations, working together safely integrate unmanned aerial systems (UAS) into the national airspace system. This project is consistent with the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council's (CNYREDC) plan to encourage entrepreneurship, attract new businesses and increase jobs.

C'ville Yoghurt, Inc. (Central New York Region – Cortland County) – \$500,000

C'ville Yoghurt, Inc. d/b/a Byrne Hollow Farm, a manufacturer of cultured dairy products, will use a grant of up to \$500,000 to assist with acquiring land in Cortlandville, Cortland County, where they will construct a new 40,000-square-foot yogurt manufacturing facility and conduct employee trainings. The new facility will increase C'ville's national competitiveness, create and retain jobs in Cortland County, and stimulate the local economy through the purchase of raw materials, including millions of pounds of milk annually that will be sourced from local farms. The CNYREDC has been made aware of this project, and it aligns with the region's plan to leverage agribusiness and food processing assets, and encourage new product development. As a result of this project, C'ville will create 78 jobs, 40 of which have already been created.

New York City Region

Kingsbridge Armory (New York City Region – Bronx County) – \$30,000,000

KNIC Properties LP will use a construction loan of up to \$30 million to support Phase 1 of the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory, which will become the Kingsbridge National Ice Center. KNIC is in the process of developing the 795,000 square-foot Armory into a 5,000-seat, state-of-the art arena surrounded by eight NHL /Olympic size rinks, which will become a national training and destination facility for ice hockey, figure skating, synchronized skating, speed skating, curling and sled hockey. The New York City Regional Economic Development Council (NYCREDC) has been made aware of this project, which aligns with the NYCREDC's plan as it involves the redevelopment of a long-vacant building and creates a new regional destination in the Bronx.

Lighthouse Point (New York City Region – Richmond County) –\$16,500,000

5 Bay Street, LLC will use loans of up to \$16.5 million to support the construction of a mixed-use development, including approximately 500,000 square-feet of local retail space, restaurants, a 164-room hotel, and 116 residential units on Staten Island. This priority project is consistent with the NYCREDC's strategic plan, as it is located in the North Shore Opportunity Zone, one of the 15 Opportunity Zones designated by the

NYCREDC throughout New York City. These formerly distressed and under-utilized areas have undergone major rezoning planning and public investment during the past decade, and are now poised for accelerated growth. The project will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of St. George, and is anticipated to create 110 permanent jobs, aside from the approximately 500 construction jobs required for the project.

ABC, Inc. (New York City Region – Kings County) – \$4,000,000

ABC, Inc., a publicly traded company owned by Disney Enterprises, Inc., will use a grant of up to \$4 million for set construction and the purchase production equipment for the filming of four Marvel TV series and a mini-series over four years in New York. In February 2014, ABC was exploring various locations to produce four Marvel live-action television series and a mini-series event. To encourage the company to move forward with the multi-year project – which is projected to spend more than \$200 million – in New York State, ESD committed to assisting with set construction and production equipment. The project, which commenced in May 2014, will create and employ 200 new, full-time permanent jobs in at the project location through September 2016, and will retain at least 100 of those employees through January 2017. The company has already hired 267 employees, exceeding its job commitment.

Paperless Post (New York City Region – New York County) – \$455,000

Paperless, Inc. d/b/a Paperless Post, an internet-based invitation and correspondence business, will use a grant of up to \$455,000 to assist with the relocation of Paperless Post's headquarters from Midtown to Lower Manhattan. Paperless Post initially occupied leased office space at 151 East 25th Street in Chelsea, New York, but due to the higher occupancy costs of retaining its existing workforce of over 51 employees at the Chelsea location, the company began considering its options for growth, including keeping its headquarters in New York or looking out-of-state. To keep Paperless headquartered and growing in New York State, ESD awarded funds through the Job Creation and Retention Program and the company chose to relocate its headquarters to Broadway, Lower Manhattan, which will allow for the creation of 76 new jobs.

The company completed renovations, purchased furniture, fixtures and equipment, and relocated to the new space in September 2013. The NYCREDC has been made aware of this project, which is consistent with the region's plan to accelerate economic growth and job creation by supporting the region's status as a global capital of commerce and innovation. As a result of the project Paperless Post will retain 51 existing jobs and create 76 new jobs – both of which have already been achieved.

Intercept Pharmaceuticals (New York City Region – New York County) – \$300,000

Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company that uses therapeutics to treat chronic liver diseases, will use a grant of up to \$300,000 to support the construction and renovation of 9,502 square-feet of space; purchase and install new

equipment; and expand into adjacent leased space at the company's New York City headquarters. As a result of the project, which was completed in June 2015, the company retained 20 existing jobs and pledged to create 20 new jobs at the project location. Intercept Pharmaceuticals has already created 54 new jobs.

North Country Region

ALCOA, Inc. (North Country Region – St. Lawrence County) – \$20,600,000

ALCOA, Inc., a global leader in lightweight metals engineering and manufacturing, will use working capital grants of up to \$20.6 million to enable the ALCOA Massena plant to continue operations and retain hundreds of jobs in New York State. The ALCOA Massena plant is the oldest continuously operating aluminum production facility in the Western Hemisphere, and one of the largest employers in the North Country. In November 2015, ALCOA announced its intention to idle one smelting plant in Massena and permanently close another due to low aluminum prices, as well as uncompetitive smelting and refining capacity, which would have resulted in the loss of nearly 500 jobs in St. Lawrence County. As a result of negotiations with ALCOA, on November 24, 2015, Governor Cuomo announced that a deal had been reached that would retain 600 jobs and ensure the continued operation of the Massena West Plant. As part of that agreement, ESD will provide \$20.6 million to ALCOA for working capital purposes. The North Country Regional Economic Development Council has been made aware of this project, which is consistent with the Council's plan to support existing employers.

St. Lawrence County IDA Newton Falls Railroad Phase 2 (North Country Region – St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis Counties) – \$8,672,000

The St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Authority will use a grant of up to \$8,672,000 for a portion of the Phase 2 costs to rehabilitate 46 miles of railroad track on the Newton Falls railroad line in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. This priority project will be completed in December 2016 and aligns with of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council's strategy to preserve and rehabilitate rail structures in the Adirondacks.

Mid-Hudson Region

Warwick Valley Local Development Corporation (Mid-Hudson Region – Orange County) – \$3,000,000

Warwick Valley Local Development Corporation (WVLDC) will use a grant of up to \$3 million for infrastructure improvements to upgrade water, sewer and road capacity at the former Mid Orange Correctional Facility, which is being redeveloped and turned into the Warwick Valley Office & Technology Corporate Park.. The business park will be marketed as a shovel ready, campus-like corporate park for economic development. The Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council (MHREDC) has been made aware of this project, which aligns with the Council's plan to encourage existing

businesses to create new jobs in the region and establish an environment and process to bring new businesses to the region.

Southern Tier Region

Ithaca Commons (Southern Tier Region – Tompkins County) – \$1,800,000

The City of Ithaca will use a grant of up to \$1.8 million to assist with the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Ithaca Commons, a three block area in downtown Ithaca, as well as for the replacement and upgrade of underground utilities. This priority project was completed in August 2015 and is consistent with the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council's plan to leverage private investment in business development and streetscape improvement.

Delaware County IDA/Amphenol (Southern Tier Region – Delaware County) – \$750,000

Amphenol Corporation, a major electronics and fiber optics manufacturer, will use a grant of up to \$750,000 for machinery and equipment for propane gas distribution, which has been purchased and related construction has been completed. These investments in an alternative fuel source will support the company's new facility in Sidney, which Amphenol had to build after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee completely devastated its previous facility. The funding will be redirected to Amphenol from the Delaware County IDA (DCIDA) pipeline project to assist with air handling and other equipment required by the company to maintain its operations in the Southern Tier. This project will be completed in December 2015, and will result in the retention of 700 full-time permanent employees.

Mohawk Valley Region

FAGE USA Dairy Industry, Inc. (Mohawk Valley Region – Fulton County) – \$780,000

FAGE USA Dairy Industry, Inc., a top competitor globally in the yogurt industry, will use a grant of up to \$780,000 for purchasing machinery and equipment for the construction of the East Plant Project. The project is a new 80,000 square-foot production facility in Johnstown, Fulton County that will double FAGE's production output and meet nationwide demands for the company's yogurt products. FAGE customers account for 4 percent of the U.S. refrigerated yogurt market. The project was completed in July 2015, and as a result FAGE will retain 160 existing jobs and create 130 new jobs 113 of which have been created.

Griffiss Local Development Corporation – B240 Redevelopment (Mohawk Valley Region – Oneida County) – \$590,710

Griffiss Local Development Corporation (GLDC), a not-for-profit organization, will use a grant of up to \$590,710, to demolish building B240 in the Griffiss Business and Technology Park and combine the parcel with other GLDC parcels to create a 25-acre commercial site in Rome, Oneida County. This project will be completed in August 2016

and aligns with the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council's plan to increase the region's spatial efficiency by creating strategic sites that support key regional concentrations.

Griffiss Airport Terminal Building (Mohawk Valley Region – Oneida County) – \$500,000

Oneida County will use a grant of up to \$500,000 to support the construction of a passenger terminal building at Griffiss Airport. The building will provide space for Griffiss Airport's fixed based operator, which serves aircraft users and includes the fueling and parking of all based and transient aircraft, as well as space for the airport's administration and rental car operations. This priority project was completed in March 2015 and aligns with the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council's plan to become a regionally networked and globally connected region.

Town of Verona (Mohawk Valley Region – Oneida County) – \$500,000

The Town of Verona will use a grant of up to \$500,000 to construct and install a core gravity collection system in the Hamlet of Verona and surrounding residential areas to prevent potential pollution that may result from old, poorly constructed and non-maintained septic systems. This priority project is consistent with the Mohawk Valley Economic Development Council's regional plan to improve aquatic life and recreation by minimizing harmful pollutants.

Westmoreland Ambulatory Surgery Center (Mohawk Valley Region - Oneida County) – \$400,000

Westmoreland Development Company of NY, LLC will use a grant of up to \$400,000 on behalf of Westmoreland ASC, LLC, in order to construct a 16,000 square-foot, multi-specialty ambulatory surgery center for orthopedics on a vacant land parcel in Westmoreland. Based in Hamilton, Westmoreland ASC, LLC is also authorized by the New York State Department of Health to operate the Apex Surgery Center in Westmoreland, and ownership is comprised of nine surgeons and Oneida Health Systems, Inc. This priority project was completed in June 2015 and is consistent with the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council's (MVREDC) plan to enhance the region's innovation enabling infrastructure. As a result of the project, Westmoreland will create 20 new jobs. The company has already created 15 new jobs.

Finger Lakes Region

Western New York Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing (Finger Lakes Region - Genesee County) – \$5,000,000

The Genesee County Industrial Development Agency, doing business as Genesee County Economic Development Center (GCEDC), will use a grant of up to \$5,000,000 for the cost of land acquisition, engineering, and soft costs related to infrastructure development for 1366 Technologies, Inc., the first tenant of the Western New York Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP) in Alabama, NY. 1366 Technologies is a solar energy company with an innovative approach to

manufacturing the silicon wafers that are the building block of solar cells. The company chose the STAMP site out of 300 possible locations due to the site's positive momentum and commitment to growing manufacturing interests. This project will be completed in August 2016 and aligns with the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council's plan in that it supports advanced technology and manufacturing and is identified as key to the region in the Industrial Development and Infrastructure category.

St. John Fisher College (Finger Lakes Region – Monroe County) – \$500,000

St. John Fisher College will use grants of up to \$500,000 to construct a 34,000-square-foot new integrated science and health sciences building on the college's campus in Pittsford, NY. The College needed a new science building to meet its growing demand for nursing, biology, chemistry and other sciences. This priority project was completed in August 2015 and is consistent with the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council's plan to expand opportunities for the region's workforce, strengthen and develop education and training programs for key growth industries and address shortages in key fields such as health care, information technology, and manufacturing.

Roberts Wesleyan College (Finger Lakes Region – Monroe County) – \$250,000

Roberts Wesleyan College will use a grant of up to \$250,000 for Phase II construction of a nursing and STEM sciences building as part of the college's expansion of its existing science building on its campus in North Chili, NY. The project will help the Finger Lakes Region meet the rapidly growing demand for a highly-educated health care and STEM sciences workforce, and will also house the college's nationally-recognized nursing program. This priority project was completed in August 2015 and is consistent with the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council's plan to expand opportunities for the region's workforce and spur the creation of high-skill, high-wage jobs; strengthen and develop education and training programs for key growth industries; and address shortages in key fields such as health care, agriculture, information technology, and manufacturing.

Market NY Grants (Multiple Regions)

Market NY Grant Program – (Multiple Regions) – \$1,550,000

Market NY is a regional tourism marketing program that supports regionally themed New York-focused projects and bolsters tourism growth by promoting tourism destinations, attractions and special events, and also by providing funding for tourism facilities in New York State. Market NY will use up to a total of \$1,550,000 from the Empire State Economic Development Fund to be used for tourism marketing and/or tourism capital throughout various regions of New York State. Each grantee has identified and prioritized Regional Marketing Tourism projects that support the Regional Council's strategic plans for tourism and will coordinate with New York State's "I LOVE NEW YORK" tourism division to maximize the overall program impact statewide.

Grants for the following projects were approved:

- New York Wheel, LLC - The Wheel Working Capital (Richmond County) - \$1,550,000

Craft Beverage Regional Marketing Grant Program (Statewide)

Craft Beverage Regional Marketing Grant Program (Statewide) – \$2,000,000

An additional \$2 million has been approved for the Craft Beverage Regional Marketing Grant Program, which will support marketing initiatives that target craft beverage businesses located across New York State. At the New York State Craft Beverage Summit in April 2014, Governor Cuomo pledged \$3 million to support marketing and tourism promotion for the craft beverage industry. In December 2014, the ESD Board of Directors authorized the creation of the Craft Beverage Grant Program, which was split into two grant programs; a \$2 million marketing and promotion grant program and a \$1 million tourism promotion program. The program was administered by ESD in consultation with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and DED Division of Tourism. Governor Cuomo renewed his pledge at his October 2015 Craft Beverage Summit, and announced additional support for the craft beverage industry in expanding its marketing and tourism promotion initiatives. The program will no longer be split into two separate grant programs, and the \$3 million of available grant funds will be administered under a single set of grant guidelines.

The next meeting of the ESD Board of Directors will be in January.

About Empire State Development

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency. The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits, and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov and www.esd.ny.gov.

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