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ESD BOARD APPROVES GRANTS LEVERAGING MORE THAN \$30 MILLION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT TO RETAIN AND CREATE JOBS ACROSS NEW YORK STATE

Empire State Development's Board of Directors met today in New York City and approved funding totaling \$3,250,000, pledging to create 28 new jobs and retain 1,257 existing jobs in New York State. The funding will leverage \$30,800,000 in investments across the state.

"Today's action shows we are continuing to leverage private investment and optimize limited state resources to retain and create much-needed jobs across the state," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. "Every day companies are choosing to make substantial job-creating investments in our communities instead of leaving the state, proving that New York is truly Open for Business."

The Board has approved an Economic Development Purposes Fund grant for the following:

Clinton Industrial Development Acquisition, LLC – \$1,200,000 (Clinton County)

Clinton Industrial Development Acquisition, LLC, which was created by the County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) in April 2012, will acquire, maintain and promote the former Pfizer Research and Development facility (the "Facility") in Chazy, New York. Although over the last two years the Facility and site have attracted interest by potential purchasers, the large size of the Facility and its significant operational costs have caused it to remain vacant. CCIDA, through Clinton Industrial Development Acquisition (CIDA), will acquire the Facility from Pfizer at a nominal cost to provide more time and opportunity to present the Facility for acquisition by a responsible party, which would create investment and employment opportunities for Chazy and the surrounding area. ESD proposes to make a working capital grant of \$1,200,000 to CIDA for operational costs while the Facility is being marketed to a new end user.

The Board has approved three Economic Development Fund grants for the following:

SKF Aeroengine North America – \$1,375,000 (Chautauqua County)

SKF Aeroengine North America, a leading manufacturer of high-precision, custom-engineered ball and roller bearings for critical aeroengine and specialty applications, will be relocating into a new facility, and has acquired and installed new machinery and equipment to accommodate a

new heat treat operation and additional research and development. The company had considered relocating its heat treat operations to South Carolina; however, after ESD worked with the company to help offset the cost of the much-needed equipment, SKF decided to keep its business in New York. The project will retain 600 jobs and create 10 new jobs. Total project cost is \$17.9 million.

Huhtamaki, Inc. – \$500,000 (Oswego County)

Huhtamaki, Inc., a multi-national company that produces consumer packaging products used in food, beverage, retail, and other non-food industries, has purchased and installed new flexographic printing machinery and equipment to increase production capacity, add efficiency, and reduce waste. The Fulton facility produces a variety of paper cups, containers, and container lids for the frozen desert and food industries, including for major customers such as Nestle, Hershey, Friendly's, Starbucks and Wegmans. The grant will be used to help offset the cost of new machinery, without which the Fulton business would not grow and would continue to lose business to competitors, all of whom are located outside of New York State. The project will retain 631 jobs. Total project cost is \$6.2 million.

Empire Fruit Growers Co-Op, Inc. – \$175,000 (Wayne County)

Empire Fruit Growers Co-Op, Inc., which specializes in apple growing, packing and shipping, constructed a new 71,520 square foot facility in Wolcott, New York that is currently fully operational. In 2011, as a result of increased apple production, the Empire Fruit Growers Co-Op, Inc. (EFG) facility was not equipped to handle the increased volume. The facility was near the end of its useful life and moreover, due to the age of the building, EFG was no longer able to meet food safety requirements. To continue packing at the old facility would have required an extremely large capital investment and the company was faced with either moving to a larger more efficient facility or closing the business in its current location. ESD worked together with EFG to provide a \$175,000 capital grant, which helped keep the company in New York State and will create 18 new full time jobs. The project will also retain 26 jobs. Total project cost is \$6.7 million.

The next meeting of the ESD Board of Directors will tentatively be held the third week of May at a location to be announced closer to the time of the event.

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency (www.esd.ny.gov). 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.nyworks.ny.gov and www.esd.ny.gov.

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