

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Kraftsman, Inc. to Bring 20 New Jobs to Stanly County”

Albemarle, NC: Kraftsman, Inc., a manufacturer of trailers and associated products for the transportation industry based in Ramseur, NC, has purchased the former Palm Harbor Homes manufacturing plant in Albemarle, NC to accommodate their growing need for additional production capacity. The company recently expanded their facilities in Randolph County and will continue to grow in both locations. They expect to create at least 20 jobs in Stanly County within the next 18 months with the addition of this 133,550s.f. space. The company also expects to work closely with the Stanly Community College’s Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Center to train the welders and other production personnel needed to support the company’s business growth. If current trends continue the company could add up to 100 new employees within the next five years. Governor McCrory’s office announced that the North Carolina Department of Commerce’s Rural Economic Development Division will fund Stanly County’s application on behalf of Kaufman, Inc. for a \$240,000 Building Reuse grant to support their expansion. This grant will help offset some of the renovation costs associated with putting the long vacant building back into productive use. Renovations and initial operations are expected to start by June, 2015.

In a statement, company president Paul Kaufman said: “We believe that our new location in Stanly County offers our company the type of location, workforce, resources and support that we need to continue our success and build our business. We are grateful to the State of North Carolina for their commitment to support the new jobs and investment our expansion will generate in Stanly County.”

The Stanly County EDC would like to thank the N.C. Department of Commerce, the North Carolina Community College System, Stanly Community College, Stanly County, the City of Albemarle and our private sector allies for their support on the project.

“We welcome Kraftsman Inc. to Stanly County and are excited to see that our investment in Stanly Community College’s AMIT Center is already paying dividends by helping attract new industry and training our workforce to take advantage of new job opportunities for our citizens.” said County Commissioner Bill Lawhon, Chair of the Stanly County Economic Development Board. Albemarle’s mayor Ronnie Michael added: “We are pleased to welcome Kraftsman, Inc. to Albemarle and look forward to supporting the Kraftsman team in the years ahead to ensure their success.”

Kraftsman Inc. has been in operation since October 2000. They currently manufacture a full line of landscape trailers and equipment trailers and have grown to be a major supplier of all types of trailers to retail customers, municipal, state, and federal agencies.