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In the Loop

To: CEDC Board of Directors, CEDC Members and Interested Parties

From: Ted Sprague, CEDC President

Date: 6/30/10

PORT OF LONGVIEW LANDS STEEL PIPE MANUFACTURER

After a long and competitive process, the Port of Longview signed a lease with IDM Longview, LLC and Skyline Steel to construct and operate a steel pipe manufacturing center in the Port's West Industrial Park.

Skyline, a subsidiary of the world's largest steel manufacturer ArcelorMittal, will produce rolled, welded and spiral pipe at their new facility. The new operation is expected to generate approximately 65 family wage jobs and produce more than \$100,000 a year in property tax revenue for our area.

"The Longview facility will further strengthen our position to serve the foundation market in the Western part of North America," said Ted Grodhaus, CEO and President, Skyline Steel. "In addition, the pipe facility ensures improved safety of operations, increased value to current and potential customers, and allows Skyline Steel to grow through efficient, cost effective production."

Skyline will be the third steel production facility located at or adjacent to the Port of Longview, creating a hub of steel service centers.

"Skyline is an excellent addition to our tenant mix at the Port of Longview," said Port Commission President Bob Bagaason. "The project will create jobs and add strength to our steel presence, a win for the community and for business."

IDM will construct the facility and lease it to Skyline, who will have the option to purchase it after twelve years. The Port has the obligation to purchase the building at the end of the initial lease term if Skyline does not, which requires the project to comply with prevailing wage laws.

The Port staff and Commissioners were required to be extremely creative throughout this process. There were many times I personally thought the deal was heading south, but because of the hard work performed by the Port, the willingness of the County to participate financially with .09% infrastructure money and a general can do attitude, the company decided to site in our community. Port Executive Director, Ken O'Hollaren, commented at the recent Commission meeting that the project was made possible by the dedication of Port staff, CEDC staff and the county all pulling together.

In this economy, with so many negative headlines, it is all the more impressive that we are continuing to land vital manufacturing jobs to our employment mix. This was truly a job well done by all involved.

CERB ANNOUNCES EXPORT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) recently announced the launch of the Export Assistance Program, created by the [2010 Supplemental Capital Budget \(Section 1018\)](#). The program's purpose is to support the growth of export of Washington state products and services by financing infrastructure and technical assistance projects.

The Export Assistance Program is a \$3 million competitive loan and grant program available to local governments and public institutions of higher education. CERB is currently seeking proposals for highly-leveraged, innovative projects which will measurably increase the short- and long-term exports of Washington state products and/or services.

CERB is currently accepting responses to a [Request for Qualifications \(RFQ\)](#). RFQ responses are due by 5pm PST, on **Monday, July 19, 2010**.

After a threshold review by CERB staff, a review panel consisting of CERB members

and export industry experts will select projects for further consideration. Selected projects will be issued an invitation to apply for funding through a Request for Proposals (RFP).

For details on qualified applicants, eligible projects, the application process, and other frequently asked questions visit www.commerce.wa.gov/cerb/export.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE- - YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED

The Cowlitz County Comprehensive Plan update kicks off this summer with a variety of interactive, hands-on vision activities for young and old. You'll see activities at community fairs, Longview Farmers' Market, some major employers, chamber of commerce meetings, and other events in your neighborhoods. There is also a vision survey. You, your neighbors, and the entire Cowlitz County community are needed to help the County understand how and where you think the County should grow.

Please complete the vision survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/DLL5F29 or visit www.mycowlitz.com/liveworkplay for more info. They truly want to hear from you:

- What do you think about Cowlitz County?
- What are the best and worst things about living here?
- How do you want the county to grow over the next 20 years?

COMPANY SPOTLIGHT - - COLUMBIA RIVER CARBONATES

A little known company in Woodland is doing big things. Columbia River Carbonates (CRC) was established in 1985 as a supplier of high-grade, ultra-fine ground calcium carbonate products and technical services for the paper, paint and plastic industries throughout the Northwestern United States and Western Canada. They have grown the facility in Woodland to a \$45 million facility that produces nearly 200,000 tons of product and employs over 50 people.

Over the last two plus decades, CRC has responded to the impacts felt by the community

by their industrial operations. The response to the needs of the community by CRC is impressive, including reductions in lighting, paving more of their work area, acoustical engineering and sound insulation, reduction of storm water runoff etc., etc., etc. CRC even implemented a significant scholarship program for Woodland High School graduates, aiding local families with the high cost of college and vocational training.

We have hundreds of successful and community minded companies like CRC in our county and we need to remind ourselves to celebrate them!

BEEN TO A BLACK BEARS GAME YET???

My family and I finally took in our first Black Bears game on Sunday night and my three kids (ages 12, 10, & 8) are still talking about all the fun they had. This new team to our area is a throwback to the days before money took over the Major Leagues. In fact the slogan is, "Baseball... the way it used to be." That sums it up perfectly. Wood bats, kids doing competitions between each inning, no ginormous video screens, great food, inexpensive tickets all adds up to a memorable time at the ball park. It all happens on LCC's campus at Story Field which is an impressive setting with the hills and trees in the background. If you ever want to get the "Field of Dreams" experience, treat yourself to a Cowlitz Black Bears game! <http://www.cowlitzblackbears.com/>

The team also has a strong booster club who is trying to get sponsorships to get the team to a Mariner vs. Yankees game at Safeco Field. They are looking for sponsors to put the team up in a hotel the night of the game so they can rest before they head north to Canada for a game the next day. Sponsor commitments are needed by this Friday. If you are interested in helping out please contact Becky Hines, at cfmc@cowlitzedc.com

HAVE A FUN AND SAFE FOURTH OF JULY!!!