

MANUFACTURING DAY OCTOBER 4, 2024

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to the largest manufacturing workforce in the Southeast and the 9th largest in the United States, employing over 470,000 workers representing more than 10 percent of the total workforce; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is home to nearly 400 manufacturing firms specializing in the manufacture of a wide range of products including automotive and heavy-duty truck components, aviation components, food and beverage, plastics, healthcare devices, printing and related support activities, and more; and

WHEREAS, over the past ten years manufacturing jobs have increased over 27% in Buncombe County adding close to 3,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing firms in Buncombe County support educational institutions including Buncombe County Schools, Asheville City Schools, A-B Tech, UNC Asheville, Western Carolina University along with many other educational institutions, nonprofits and charities in the county; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Schools, Asheville City Schools, A-B Tech and other educational institutions in the region offer state-of-the-art instruction in high demand careers serving the workforce needs of manufacturing employers in the region; and

WHEREAS, four of the top ten property taxpayers in Buncombe County are manufacturing firms; and

WHEREAS, based on EDC project announcements, manufacturing firms in the region have invested more than \$1.1 billion in capital investments over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County's average manufacturing wage in the county is \$63,263 which makes manufacturing one of the higher paying sectors in the county; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County's 13,700+ manufacturing jobs generate total wages of nearly \$870 million dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, as part of national **Manufacturing Week (the week of October 4 – October 11)** and **Manufacturing Day (October 4, 2024)** hundreds of educators, teachers and workforce partners will visit local manufacturing firms to increase awareness of the career opportunities available in this sector;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners strongly support the region's manufacturing sector and is committed to helping manufacturing firms meet their talent needs. That this Board pledges to educate and inform the region about the importance of the manufacturing sector and the Board supports National Manufacturing Week and Manufacturing Day.

This 17th day of September, 2024.

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners