

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Wednesday, March 18, 2015

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GOVERNOR HASLAM, COMMISSIONER BOYD ANNOUNCE PURE FOODS, INC. TO LOCATE US HEADQUARTERS AND MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN KINGSPORT

Nutritious Snack and Convenience Food Manufacturer to Invest \$22 Million, Create 273 Jobs

NASHVILLE – Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd along with Pure Foods, Inc. officials announced today the company has chosen Kingsport for its U.S. headquarters and manufacturing operations. The 88,000 square foot facility will be built on 35 acres and will serve markets primarily in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The announcement by the specialty snack food maker represents an investment of \$22 million and the creation of 273 new jobs in Sullivan County.

“We want to welcome Pure Foods to Tennessee and thank them for their investment in Kingsport,” Haslam said. “Our geographic location and skilled workforce are incredible advantages when we’re out recruiting businesses to Tennessee, and when a company establishes its U.S. headquarters and manufacturing operations in Tennessee, it sends another clear signal that we can compete with anyone.”

“The food and beverage sector has added more than 4,000 new jobs and \$1.1 billion in new investment during the Haslam administration. Tennessee continues to see momentum build in this sector,” Boyd said. “I am pleased with Pure Foods’ decision to locate in Tennessee, furthering our world renowned reputation as a state where the artisan spirit continues to thrive, and I applaud the company for investing and creating nearly 300 new jobs in Kingsport.”

“Our vision to give consumers across North America healthier snack options has come to life today thanks to the tremendous support of the city and Chamber of Commerce of Kingsport, the Tennessee Economic and Community Development team and NETWORKS Sullivan Partnership. It’s been exciting to work with these partners to build a state-of-the-art snack facility like no other,” Pure Foods President & CEO John Frostad said. “The new investment will allow Pure Foods to operate an advanced, FSSC22000, BRC and SQF certified, Allergen Controlled Snack Manufacturing Plant. In addition to industry leading material handling and processing techniques, the company is deploying patented dehydration technology that will see the integration of fresh vegetables and fruits into sheeted tortilla style snacks, extruded

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products, and other snack forms. The central location of Kingsport along with a skilled and enthusiastic workforce is why Pure Foods made the decision to locate its head office and manufacturing facility there.”

Pure Foods produces nutrient dense and low fat specialty snack foods. Construction has already begun on the Kingsport location, the company’s fourth facility in North America, and is slated for completion in August 2015.

“I’m proud that great companies like Pure Foods consistently decide to base their operations in Tennessee,” Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey said. “Northeast Tennessee has a high-quality workforce that is the envy of the nation. I’m grateful to Pure Foods for their decision to make their home here in Kingsport.”

“I am very excited that Pure Foods has chosen Sullivan County for its U.S. headquarters and primary facility,” Sullivan County Mayor Richard Venable said. “Pure Foods demonstrates that when a community invests in things like land development and speculative buildings, great companies respond. The jobs and investment are fantastic, but having spent a great deal of time with the leadership of Pure Foods, I am most excited knowing what an outstanding corporate citizen we are getting.”

“It has been a real joy working with the management team from Pure Foods. This is a dedicated group of individuals that will work to help this company become a real success story,” Kingsport Mayor Dennis Phillips said. “On behalf of the city, I would like to express my appreciation to the state of Tennessee and NETWORKS for their persistence, dedication and professionalism in helping to locate Pure Foods to Kingsport.”

“Kingsport is very excited to welcome Pure Foods to our community. This is great news for our city and state, and we are most appreciative to Pure Foods for selecting Kingsport as the home for its new location,” Kingsport Economic Development Board Chairman Bill Dudley said. “This successful endeavor has taken many months to make happen, and it has been a very productive collaboration between the state of Tennessee, city of Kingsport, Sullivan County, NETWORKS, Kingsport Economic Development Board and the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce. I want to thank all of these great partners for their extraordinary efforts in helping to recruit Pure Foods to Kingsport.”

Pure Foods will begin its hiring process in April 2015. Information on how to apply for available positions will be available at that time.

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Kingsport and Sullivan County are represented by Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey (R – Blountville), Rep. Jon Lundberg (R – Bristol), Rep. Bud Hulseby (R – Kingsport) and Rep. Timothy Hill (R-Blountville).

About the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

Tennessee was named 2014 and 2013 “State of the Year” for economic development by *Business Facilities* magazine. The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development’s mission is to develop strategies which help make Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high quality jobs. The department seeks to attract new corporate investment in Tennessee and works with Tennessee companies to facilitate expansion and economic growth. Find us on the web: tnecd.com. Follow us on Twitter: @tnecd. Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/tnecd.

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