



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE • ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION • FT MADISON REGIONAL RIVERBOAT COMMISSION

July 23, 2019

Dear FMEDC Member Investors;

As an ongoing supporter of Fort Madison Economic Development Corporation (FMEDC), we again want to thank you for your continued commitment. We simply cannot do what we do without your support. This will update you on what we've accomplished this past year, as well as give you as much information as possible about what lies ahead for Fort Madison and our entire region.

As you're aware, we've worked with Fort Madison Partners on their Strategic Planning process late in 2017. This process was a group effort involving all the Affiliates under the Partners umbrella. This provides us the opportunity to hear what each group is doing as well as our other economic partners. We also outlined top priorities of FMEDC and here is where we're at from 2018:

- **Board representation on LCEDG:** FMEDC continues to hold a voting seat on the LCEDG board, providing us the opportunity to learn more about what the county group is doing and offer our feedback. Being at the table has provided us the chance to give input on their programs as well as being closely involved in developing a better working connection.
- **Community Development:** FMEDC created an incentive plan to help with those industries that continue to grow but may be under the radar for incentives from the State or just need a local infusion of cash to solidify the deal. Finalized the land swap deal with Gregory Manufacturing- allowing them to expand their operation as well as provide us road access onto our property along Highway 61. Worked with MidAmerican Energy to take on their property downtown Fort Madison and quickly turn it over to a developer.
- **Site Certification:** In 2015, we recognized a 127-acre area south of ConAgra Foods for a potential Certified Site. In April 2019 we finished the third phase reporting requirements and looking to submit the final report to the state in January 2020. That will put this location as the first privately owned Certified Site in SE Iowa.
- **Industry relations:** FMEDC continues to build relationships with our local industry partners and identify how we can help with concerns- to include but not limited to identifying potential incentive packages to help offset their commitment to invest in Fort Madison. 2018 showed 125+ new employees at or above the county average and over \$35 million in capital investment. These figures show we have a stable industrial base with their willingness to invest in their facilities and continued job/production growth.

FMEDC continues to be at the forefront of many exciting projects throughout our region. We continue to work with our economic development partners to bring new companies and residents to Fort Madison and the surrounding area, as well as take the necessary steps to retain our existing industries.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, thank you again for your past support and we hope to be honored by your support in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Huffman  
Chair

## Fort Madison Economic Development

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