

June 25, 2013
Volkswagen Group of America
Grand Opening

Welcome! I am proud to be here today to celebrate Volkswagen's \$40 million global distribution center in Roane County, and want to thank the auto company for investing in our community. Our residents here are friendly, and our workforce energized and loyal. Volkswagen's choice of Roane County was not only a good choice, but the right choice.

Water at 211° is hot. Water at 212° will boil and once boiling, water becomes steam and steam can power a mighty engine. One extra degree is all it takes for something great to be accomplished. The opening of Roane County's Volkswagen Distribution Plant is a great accomplishment.

Folks, I would like to tell you about one extra degree - one more degree of effort to make this accomplishment. I will try to name just a few of the people and their activities who gave the extra effort to make this possible. At times we were at 211° and needed to get to 212°. Through the efforts of many an extra effort was made and a new member became part of our family and industrial community.

Leslie Henderson, President/CEO of the Roane Alliance, approached me in the fall of 2011 about a prospect and about putting a prospect recruitment package together. A lot of work and extra effort took place to get to the point in time for Commission action.

We thank the Alliance Staff and Industrial Development Board for their extra effort.

The Executive Office and the County Legislative body then had a series of functions to complete by way of drafting, filing and adopting resolutions.

To the Executive Staff and County Commission, thank you.

Throughout all these public meetings, adoption of resolutions, and discussions with the future prospect, the news media was respectful of the confidential nature of the negotiations.

To the news media, thank you.

The Industrial Development Board and Alliance had to continue working to get the right acreage at the right location and we appreciate the adjacent property owners for working with us as well as other property owners. H.T. Hackney, Bill Sansom, for selling property and working out wetland mitigation issues, **thank you.**

To McGill and Associates, who spent countless hours designing, engineering and re-engineering, thank you.

To the Roane County Building Inspector and staff, who fast-tracked inspections, thank you.

To the State of Tennessee for help providing fast-track funding for the infrastructure, and the Accounting staff, ETDD, and Executive staff for grant and loan application, **thank you**.

We want to thank everyone that had a hand in the project, too numerous to recognize. **Thank you**.

All these and more put an extra effort and added an extra degree in the water to make it boil and to achieve a great accomplishment.

To Volkswagen, our brothers and sisters, our new neighbor and members in our community, I think you will find us hospitable and friendly. You will find our workforce energized and loyal. You will be pleased with your decision to choose Roane County, the crossroads of the eastern United States. Thank you for choosing us. We will be here to give you that extra degree to accomplish more.