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Cook County Airport, an Economic Gateway: USDA Funding for Improvements Strengthens Commercial Viability in the Adel-Cook County Region

ADEL, Ga., July 25, 2013 –Today, USDA Rural Development State Director, Quinton N. Robinson, joined members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Chamber of Commerce to celebrate successful efforts to fund essential upgrades to the Cook County Airport.

USDA implemented two programs to maximize impact for the project. First, a \$55,950 Rural Business Enterprise Grant will be used to purchase equipment for the set up the offices, lobby and waiting areas and pilot's planning area including electronics in the terminal building. Construction of twenty-two aircraft hangars will be made possible with a \$1,123,000 Rural Development Community Facility Loan. "I am pleased that Rural Development programs worked simultaneously to advance the infrastructure and business development needs of the Cook County Airport," said Robinson.

It is anticipated that commerce will increase to the Adel, Cook County area as a result of these airport improvements. "The Airport and conference room set the stage for negotiations with prospective companies by presenting our county as a leader in Economic Development." said Commissioner Matthew Dinnerman, Airport Authority Chairman. He continued, "...when the Economic Development Commission and Industrial Development Authority sit down with prospects to negotiate for companies to make an investment into our community, the Airport makes an important statement to let them know we are serious about what we do."

One example is Catalina Tempering, Inc who purchased 189,000 manufacturing and warehouse space in Adel, Ga for their new glass tempering facility. The California based company will soon open a new plant in Adel, creating 30 direct, local jobs. "We have eleven plants across the country," said Dennis Jasmer, COO of Catalina Tempering, Inc, "and we don't even consider a location for a new facility unless it has the ability for our corporate plane to fly directly to the city where our facility is located."

"I believe the airport is the largest economic tool for the county. This is a very exciting time for Cook County," said Jerry Connell, President/CEO of Adel-Cook County Chamber of Commerce. His comment is supported by Commissioner Dinnerman who

said the project will help “grow the tax base, maintain low affordable taxes for our community, and create jobs that will improve quality of life for years to come.”

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way – strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack are committed to a smarter use of Federal resources to foster sustainable economic prosperity and ensure the government is a strong partner for businesses, entrepreneurs and working families in rural communities.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has a portfolio of programs designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as the Department implements sequestration – the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act.

USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$828 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

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