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NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



Air Filtration Manufacturer to Expand in Beaufort County Creating 39 Jobs

Pamlico Air, an air filtration manufacturing company, will expand its North Carolina operations with a new facility in Beaufort County, creating 39 jobs, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced today. The company will invest \$1.4 million in Washington.

"North Carolina's manufacturers continue to expand and grow, even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic," said **Governor Cooper**. "Pamlico Air's decision to expand their operations in North Carolina speaks to the power of the state's workforce, our resilient economy, and our focus on the future."

Pamlico Air, formerly organized as Cleanaire LLC, is a high-quality air filtration manufacturer that services retail, wholesale, commercial, and industrial markets nationally. The company will launch a new division to design, develop, and produce high efficiency air filtration products and related equipment for the pharmaceutical, microelectronics, biotech, nuclear, and healthcare markets. The company's headquarters, also located in Washington, will remain at its present location.

"Eastern North Carolina is home to a lot of the Pamlico Air family," said **Travis Stephenson, CEO of Pamlico Air**. "Locating our High Purity facility here with our corporate office made sense for lots of reasons. It's a great fit for us, and Pamlico Air is a great fit for Beaufort County."

"Manufacturing is the heartbeat of the North Carolina economy and even the coronavirus has never stopped it," said **Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "Companies like Pamlico Air that expand their existing operations here make a powerful statement about the health of our state."

Today's announcement comes during a week that Governor



Governor Cooper Proclaims North Carolina Manufacturing Week

Governor Roy Cooper noted that manufacturing remains essential to the success of every sector of our state's economy as he proclaimed September 27 - October 3, 2020 as Manufacturing Week in North Carolina.

As the state's CEO, **Governor Cooper** leads the seventh largest manufacturing economy in the United States with North Carolina's manufacturers contributing \$100.1 billion to our gross domestic product. Studies show that for every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing, \$1.82 is generated for North Carolina's economy.

"North Carolina manufacturers produce 17% of our gross state product," said **Governor Cooper**. "During this week we celebrate the contributions of manufacturers in our state as well as our manufacturing sector research initiatives and workforce development programs."

In 2019, 95% of North Carolina's \$32.8 billion exports were manufactured goods spanning pharmaceuticals, aircraft and automotive components, chemicals and transportation equipment. With more than 9,600 new jobs and investments totaling \$3.58 billion, 69% of economic development projects announced in 2019 were manufacturing projects.

Since Governor Cooper took office, North Carolina has announced 28,791 manufacturing jobs with more than \$10.5 billion investment, growing our manufacturing workforce to more than 475,000 people for 10,350 manufacturers.

Cooper proclaims as North Carolina Manufacturing Week, marking the importance of this sector of the state's economy. With more than 470,000 manufacturing employees across the state, North Carolina has the largest manufacturing workforce in the Southeast and ninth largest in the nation. Manufacturing accounts for 19% of North Carolina's economic output at \$100.1 billion.

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but the average annual wage will be \$38,077, in line with the Beaufort County average of \$38,008.

A performance-based grant of \$120,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Pamlico Air's expansion in North Carolina.

In addition to the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Beaufort County Community College](#), the [Mid-East Commission](#), the [City of Washington](#), the [Beaufort County Committee of 100](#), the Beaufort County Board of Commissioners and the Beaufort County Manager, and [Beaufort County Economic Development](#).

Commerce Invites Public Input on Fair Housing Issues

Commerce invites citizens to offer their perspectives and input on fair housing issues in North Carolina as part of a public comment period associated with federal housing funds managed by the Department and other state agencies.

The state is preparing what is known as an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI), a public planning process leading to a final report that analyzes how well North Carolina is expanding housing choice among members of certain protected classes. The report will identify any barriers to housing choice and include strategies to eliminate barriers and unfair discrimination.

The Department has arranged several ways for the public to get involved, scheduling a series of virtual meetings this week for housing stakeholders, virtual meetings for the general public, and an online survey.

Further information about all of the feedback opportunities is available [at Commerce's website here](#).

North Carolina's response to COVID-19 is heavily supported by the manufacturers that are producing and donating Personal Protective Equipment and testing kits, as well as biomanufacturers that are providing resources, research and development treatments, and detection tools to combat the pandemic.

North Carolina manufacturers have benefited from an excellent business climate with low costs, the nation's lowest corporate income tax rate of 2.5% and a central East Coast location within a day's drive of half of the U.S. population.

More information about [Manufacturing Week](#) is included in [Governor Cooper's proclamation, available online](#).

Application Window for Mortgage, Utilities, and Rate Relief Program Opening Later This Week

The new N.C. Mortgage, Utility and Rent Relief program (MURR), administered by N.C. Commerce, expects to begin accepting applications later this week. The program was introduced by **Governor Roy Cooper** on September 22.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy – powering our local communities and giving back in so many ways. They deserve our support, and this new initiative can help them weather this tough time," said **Governor Cooper**.

The MURR program can provide up to \$20,000 in relief funds per qualifying business location. Business applicants from certain industry sectors that have not been able to operate during the COVID period may apply for up to two of their business locations.

Business leaders can learn about the MURR program by registering for the final in a series of free educational webinars offered by Commerce, scheduled for this coming Friday (October 2) at 11:00am. Recordings of previous webinars are also available.

Webinar registration and detailed information regarding eligibility for the MURR program is available at nccommerce.com/murr.

N.C. in the News

- [Governor announces Beaufort County expansion jobs](#) (*Washington Daily News* - September 29)
- [Time for filling out census running out](#) (*Caswell Messenger* - Yanceyville - September 28)
- [Report details NASA's \\$84 million](#)

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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