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KOSCIUSKO COUNTY: LAND OF OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Script for slide-tape/video presentation

Kosciusko county: Land of opportunity for business and industry! Strategically situated in northeast Indiana, Kosciusko county is characterized by the scenic beauty of 103 lakes and more than 175 diverse industries operating in a prosperous local economy.

Over 63% of local firms are in expansion programs, evidence of the tremendous potential for companies located in this thriving area. What has made Kosciusko county such a land of opportunity?

To begin with, Kosciusko county benefits from a central market location with an excellent transportation network. Warsaw is the seat of the county, and is the center of its industrial and commercial activity. Fort Wayne and South Bend are less than one hour away, and Chicago and Indianapolis can be reached in two hours. However, Kosciusko county industries reach far beyond these regions to serve national and international markets.

The transportation network includes Warsaw municipal airport, a newly-expanded aviation facility that accomodates corporate jet aircraft. Inexpensive product shipping is provided by the county's rail services, including Conrail, Norfolk and Western, and the B & O railroads. Passenger service is provided by Amtrak. The leading product transportation mode is trucking. Warsaw is intersected by U.S. Highway 30, and two major interstates are within 35 miles. Three truck lines provide service, operating out of more than 20 terminals.

In this prime location a healthy, diversified industrial base has emerged, providing numerous business investment opportunities. Local firms are taking advantage of these opportunities and expanding by diversifying product lines, automating, and making Kosciusko county their headquarters. Brand new firms are springing up as well.

The variety of local industires includes high-tech electronics, telecommuni- cations, printing, publishing, food processing, packaging, nad the manufact- ure of furniture; mine ventilation equipment, pharmaceuticals, recreational vehicles, mobile homes, farm implements, rubber products, steel and iron.

Many of these firms are leaders in their fields. The Warsaw area is home to the world's largest manufacturer of movie projection screens, the largest producer of spoked wheels, and the largest rotogravure printing press.

Known as the orthopedic capital of the world, Warsaw is the nation's center for the orthopedic industry. The major companies are located here where the industry was founded by local entrepreneurs.

Perhaps the key ingredient to Kosciusko county's industrial growth and prosperity is quality labor. High industrial production, long terms of employment, stable labor relations, a high degree of job satisfaction, and a lack of unionization are all characteristic of Kosciusko county's work force.

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Kosciusko county is committed to local industry and greatly interested in new business investments. This has found expression in the development of three triple A industrial parks, in Pierceton, North Webster, and Milford. These parks will have municipal water and sewage along with gas and electric service. Two excellent industrial parks already exist in Warsaw.

Life in Kosciusko county is not all work, however. The employees of local companies enjoy a high standard of living and a unique quality of life. This area boasts some of the finest recreational, educational, and health care facilities, as well as numerous other community services. Unparalleled recreational opportunities center around the county's 103 lakes. Fishing, boating, skiing, swimming, hiking, camping, and hunting are an integral part of the area lifestyle. In addition, there is a fine public park system, and the local Y.M.C.A. has begun a one-and-one-half million dollar expansion program. There are privately operated facilities for tennis and racquetball, health and exercise clubs, and eight golf courses, including the one maintained by a country club on beautiful Lake Tippecanoe.

Kosciusko county schools are committed to excellence in education. The Warsaw Community School system has a varied and intensive vocational curriculum, and students have access to 125 work-study programs which offer on-the-job training. The college prep program regularly produces national merit semi-finalists.

"Learn a Living" is the motto of Ivy Tech, which provides post-high school vocational training in areas such as industrial supervision, office skills, and computer programming, and works in close cooperation with local industry.

Grace Schools, a fully-accredited liberal arts college and graduate school, provides higher-educational opportunities in several areas important to industry, including accounting, business administration, and computer science.

Located in Warsaw is Kosciusko Community Hospital, a modern 113 bed facility less than 10 years old and in the process of expansion. The Otis Bowen Center for Human Services is a comprehensive mental health clinic which operates an employee assistance program for local companies.

Finally, Kosciusko county is characterized by public safety and a virtually non-existent crime rate, thanks to highly professional and well-staffed city and county police forces, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

What has made Kosciusko county a land of opportunity for business and industry? Prime location and accessibility, a healthy, diversified industrial base, high-quality labor, a prosperous economy and an excellent quality of life.

These features have proven to be highly attractive to industrial investors. In addition, interested investors will find various financial incentives offered when considering a project in Kosciusko county. These include training programs, industrial revenue bonds, tax abatement and other attractive incentives. Also, state grants and loans may be offered for utility and sight development and machinery purchases.

Upon request, the Greater Warsaw Area Chamber of Commerce will provide potential investors in Kosciusko county with tailored information packages designed to address specific needs, including statistical data on available industrial buildings and sites, and a financial expansion and relocation book.

The leadership of the communities in Kosciusko county are interested in attracting compatible industrial firms that will complement the existing base and contribute to the prosperity and quality of life they enjoy.

Kosciusko county - a land of opportunity for business and industry.

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