

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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-OR-

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**Reidsville City Manager and Rockingham County Manager Issue Joint Statement
About Closing of Ball Corporation's Reidsville Metal Beverage Container Plant**

Reidsville, NC (December 13, 2016)—The City of Reidsville and Rockingham County were notified yesterday evening that Ball Corporation had announced to its employees plans to shut down the Reidsville metal beverage container plant by mid-2017.

We are deeply saddened for the employees, their families and our community. Ball Corporation has been a great employer and valued corporate citizen for 37 years. The loss of this plant and 150 jobs will be felt throughout our community and region.

The City and County Economic Development Teams will be working closely with our state and local allies such as NC Works and Rockingham Community College to put a plan in place to assist the displaced workers.

Our job is to try to make the best of this as much as possible. The skilled and adaptable workforce coming out of Ball will be a great asset for our industry recruitment efforts. We will focus our efforts on targeting new businesses and industries that require these skills. We will begin marketing the building as soon as possible and the size of the facility will be a great selling point.

There are exciting opportunities underway in Reidsville and Rockingham County that will help in attracting new business such as the Love's Travel Center development; NTE Energy power plant; numerous downtown developments including the Lucky City brew pub; and the investments and expansions of many of our existing industries that were announced this year.

We are confident that our team will think creatively and put focused strategies in place that accentuate our strengths, selling points and advantages to bring new jobs and industries to Reidsville and Rockingham County.

On behalf of Mayor Jay Donecker and the Reidsville City Council and Chairman Mark F. Richardson and the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners:

Preston W. Mitchell
Reidsville City Manager

Lance L. Metzler
Rockingham County Manager

"While saddened to hear that Ball Corporation has made the decision to close the Reidsville Plant, I want our citizens and stakeholders to know that the City and County will work diligently to overcome this loss to our community.

My heart goes out to the employees and the families of this facility. They will remain at the forefront of our thoughts and actions as we respond. This plant has been an economic and social staple in the fabric of our local society for numerous years. We will endeavor to work with Ball Corporation, others and the community through this difficult time," said Preston Mitchell, Reidsville City Manager.

"The news of a plant shut down is never easy especially when it is one like Ball Corporation that has been a pillar of our local economy for so many years. The Commissioners and I are heartbroken by the company's decision to close the local plant.

Our top concern is for the affected employees and their families. I want to assure them and our entire community that we will be doing all that we can to help the displaced workers. Our teams at the County will be working closely with our partners in Reidsville and at the state level to offer the appropriate support.

While this is another hurdle to overcome, the people of Reidsville and Rockingham County are hardworking and resilient. It's attributes like these that will keep our community moving forward and help in our efforts to attract a new business to that facility," said Lance Metzler, Rockingham County Manager.

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