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NEWS RELEASE

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Energy Industry Developments Show W.Va. Ready to Lead

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Thanks to pro-business policies advanced by Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Legislature, the Mountain State is seeing exciting new developments in the energy industry.

“West Virginia is poised to become the national energy leader that we always have known we could be,” said BIC Chairman Chris Hamilton. “Just in the last few months we have learned about new coal mine developments plus investment in renewable energy options that support an ‘all-of-the-above’ state energy policy that West Virginia must pursue.”

Earlier this week, Consol Energy Inc. announced it will open a metallurgical coal mine in southern West Virginia in 2021. The anticipated Wyoming County operation will employ between 100 and 150 workers, and construction is expected to start by early next year. The mine is expected to produce more than 600,000 tons of coal per year. Consol said it will spend up to \$80 million over the next two years to develop the mine and its preparation plant.

In February, Arch Coal announced plans to build a new mine in the Barbour County area that will produce an estimated 3 million tons of coking coal annually and provide 600 local jobs. Arch expects to invest approximately \$360 million to \$390 million over the next three years to develop the new mine, with the longwall scheduled to start up in late 2021.

“Just those two announcements alone mean 700-750 new jobs, and these are great jobs that provide competitive salaries and benefits so our families can live, work and raise their families in West Virginia,” Hamilton said. “The West Virginia Business and Industry Council extends our gratitude to Gov. Jim Justice and the legislative leadership for delivering on their promises to make West Virginia a state where the energy industry can thrive.”

Hamilton said the most recent news about a wind power project in Mineral and Grant counties shows that West Virginia can succeed with a state energy plan that embraces both our fossil fuel foundation and the potential that lies with electric power production from renewable resources.

“So often we hear that it has to be one or the other, traditional energy or renewables, but that is dead wrong and a dangerous premise,” he said. “West Virginia can show the rest of the nation that we have room for all kinds of power production in the Mountain State.”

The West Virginia Business & Industry Council’s membership includes trade associations and businesses from 26 separate industry classifications, representing some 400,000 workers in West Virginia. The organization’s goal is to enhance the business climate in West Virginia and its members have been working to that end for more than three decades.

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