



**CONTACT:**

Chris Hamilton  
Chairman, WV Business & Industry Council  
(304) 342-4153

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

August 6, 2017

**BIC Members Welcome US Methanol to West Virginia**

**INSTITUTE, W.Va.** - The West Virginia Business & Industry Council welcomes US Methanol to West Virginia and was on hand today for its groundbreaking in Institute, W.Va.

“It was an honor to witness such a momentous ground-breaking. This is US Methanol’s first methanol production plant in the United States, and it’s right here in our back yard,” said BIC Chairman Chris Hamilton.

BIC’s membership includes trade associations and businesses from 26 industries and representing over 400,000 workers in West Virginia.

US Methanol’s new facility, the Liberty One plant, is slated to begin methanol production in the second half of 2018. According to the company’s news release, the plant will produce 200,000 metric tons per year of methanol on the 11-acre area that sits at the western end of the Institute plant near W.Va. Route 25.

Liberty One will provide approximately 350 construction jobs and then 50 permanent positions at an average salary of \$65,000 plus benefits, company officials said.

“This new investment in West Virginia is proof that the business and regulatory changes we have seen from the new legislative leadership, coupled with the exciting developments in our natural gas industry, are paying off,” Hamilton said. “This is exciting news for West Virginia. With the layoffs and slowdown in coal and natural gas in recent years, it is gratifying to see such an industrial investment in West Virginia. Kudos to Gov. Jim Justice, Commerce Secretary Woody Thrasher and their team at the Department of Commerce.”

US Methanol CEO Frank Bakker said the company will provide methanol to industrial consumers in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern United States. The company has set its goal to be a top producer of methanol in the Northeastern U.S., he said.

The company is relocating this facility from Brazil to West Virginia, locating its corporate office in Charleston.

For additional information, contact Chris Hamilton at (304) 342-4153.

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

###