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DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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## **Starke County Commissioners Authorize Construction of Sysco Public Infrastructure**

**KNOX, IN (December 1, 2008)** – This afternoon the Board of Commissioners of Starke County directed that the bidding process begin immediately to construct the public infrastructure in Hamlet, Indiana, for Sysco Corporation’s Baugh North Central Cooperative facility.

The decision was made after Charles Weaver, Executive Director of the Starke County Development Foundation, informed the Commissioners that at its November Board of Directors meeting, Sysco Corporation authorized the construction of the Baugh North Central Cooperative Redistribution Center in Hamlet.

Weaver thanked Sysco Corporation for its confidence in selecting Starke County and beginning the construction. Mr. Weaver, in acknowledging the cooperation among all Starke County entities, told the Commissioners, “Starke County’s early Christmas present was due to the joint efforts of the Starke County Development Foundation, the County Commissioners, County Council, Hamlet Town Board, Starke County Planning Commission, and the Starke County Redevelopment Commission in partnership with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, IEDC’s Barkley Garrett and the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.”

The public infrastructure consists of a new 200,000 gallon water tower, new well field, water treatment facility and water mains connecting the Sysco site to the Town of Hamlet’s water system; the extension to the Town of Hamlet’s waste water treatment facility of a sewer main; and, the construction of a roadway entrance onto the Sysco site from U.S. Highway 35.

Starke County and the Starke County Development Foundation will provide infrastructure including roadway improvements and water and sewer extensions by using grants from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation’s Industrial Development Grant Fund, the US Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration Grant Fund, the Starke

County Economic Development Fund and the issuance of Tax Incremental Financing Bonds to build the infrastructure. Following construction, the water and sewer improvements will be transferred to, and operated by the Town of Hamlet.

Sysco Corporation previously purchased 320 acres for the Baugh North Central Cooperative site. The Starke County Development Foundation previously purchased 24 acres of land to construct the infrastructure.

The facility, originally named Baugh Midwest Cooperative Redistribution Center, was renamed Baugh North Central Cooperative Redistribution Center when Sysco Corporation re-aligned the regions of its broadline distribution companies in 2007. The Hamlet facility is expected to initially service broadline distribution companies in the States of North Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

The construction of the public infrastructure will commence when weather permits in early 2009. The Sysco Corporation on-site construction is expected to begin after completion of its design and bidding process, possibly as early as July of 2009. Construction of both the public infrastructure and the Baugh North Central Cooperative facility will take almost 18 months to complete.

The approximately 700,000 square foot operation is expected to create approximately 500 new jobs and will include freezer, refrigeration, and dry storage, office space, and a truck maintenance facility.

Hamlet is the third site location of several facilities planned throughout the United States as part of Sysco's Supply Chain Initiative. The first Re-Distribution Center (RDC) began shipping products in February 2005, from Front Royal, Virginia. It services 14 of Sysco's broadline distribution companies in the Northeast Region. Sysco's second RDC in Alachua, Florida, services six broadline distribution companies in the South Region.

Sysco is the global leader in selling, marketing and distributing food products to restaurants, healthcare and educational facilities, lodging establishments and other customers who prepare meals away from home. Its family of products also includes equipment and supplies for the foodservice and hospitality industries. For more information about Sysco, visit [www.Sysco.com](http://www.Sysco.com).

The Starke County Development Foundation is a not-for-profit Local Economic Development Organization (LEDO) providing economic development opportunities on behalf of Starke County, Indiana, the City of Knox, and the Towns of North Judson and Hamlet through the development of industrial parks, rail spurs, Greenfield sites, shovel-ready sites, infrastructure and workforce development. For more information regarding Starke County Development Foundation, visit [www.starkecounty.com](http://www.starkecounty.com).

As a result of legislation passed by the Indiana General Assembly in Feb. 2005, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) replaced the Department of Commerce as the premier entity charged with state economic development. The IEDC has a 12-member board chaired by Gov. Mitch Daniels. For more information about IEDC, please visit [www.iedc.IN.gov](http://www.iedc.IN.gov).

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