

The Cambria County Economic Development Authority (CCEDA)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....

CCEDA announces initiative to establish a multi-county Foreign Trade Zone

(September 19, 2014) / Johnstown, PA - The Cambria County Economic Development Authority (CCEDA) is pleased to announce that it is hosting an informational luncheon, on Wednesday, October 15th at Noon at the Cottage Restaurant in Ebensburg. The gathering is for businesses in our region who engage in the importation of merchandise (raw materials, component parts, finished goods). CCEDA is working to establish a federally authorized Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) program in a seven-county area in south-central Pennsylvania. The FTZ program is structured to help companies who import; defer, reduce or eliminate tariffs and duty paid to the federal government during the importing process. Most businesses currently use customs brokers to source the materials and merchandise necessary for the operation of their companies. The FTZ program can allow for companies to bring bonded items directly to their place of business, hold them in a secure area and draw them out as needed. While in a bonded state, the importing company pays no tariff/duty on the goods until they pull it out of the secured area. The effect of this is to allow companies to hold onto the dollars paid at the domestic arrival port, for a longer period of time; thus improving cash flow.

To help company managers understand more about the program, our keynote speaker, Mr. Daniel Griswold, President of the National Association of Foreign Trade Zones, will be providing an overview. Mr. Griswold is a well-known expert on US trade policy, having worked in consort with the Cato Institute. CCEDA Chairman Rex McQuaide commented "Dan will explain how the FTZ program has the potential to help importing (current & future) companies save significant dollars and take more direct control of their supply chain." Cambria County Commissioner Doug Lengenfelder said "Our Board has felt this program, in consort with the other economic development tools in our County's collective box, will help us shore up our current businesses while helping lure other companies to our County." CCEDA Executive Director Nick Felice added "Our group is working to set up a non-profit entity to be the grantee of a new FTZ to service the following counties in our region: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset. This entity will work directly with importing companies to help them get into the program." The process requires the interested entity/geographic area submit an application to the FTZ Board in Washington, DC. This oversight board evaluates the application and determines if the area is deserving of a zone designation. If successful, designation will occur sometime in the next 10 to 12-months.

For more information contact Nick Felice at (814) 792 - 2759.