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**Yancey County Receives Building Reuse Grant for
Local Industry Expansion & Job Creation**

On Thursday, 22 February 2018 the North Carolina Department of Commerce Rural Infrastructure Authority announced their approval of a \$25,000 economic development grant in Yancey County which will support the reuse of the former Taylor Togs building in the Micaville community, a 57,205 square foot former manufacturing facility. Mountain Electronics, a local business serving the commercial laundry industry, will relocate to the site to provide for expansion of their existing business. "Yancey County Government is proud to work hand in hand with our existing business and industries to bring every resource available to help them create good jobs for our citizens. Those of us blessed with the opportunity to serve in county government leadership are very serious about our efforts to make Yancey County a place where business wants to come and also support our existing business that desire to grow. Mountain Electronics is a smart and efficient operation and I am so pleased that the County was successful in our efforts to obtain this grant funding for their expansion" said Yancey County Manager Nathan Bennett.

Mountain Electronics is an industry leader in commercial laundry circuit board repair in the United States. Founded by former owner Jason Berry in 1999 the company has grown to fifteen employees and serves approximately 4,000 active customers in all fifty states. "Mountain Electronics is a local success story. From a small start they have grown their company into a national leader in their industry. Their expertise and work ethic has resulted in constant, steady growth for the company" said Yancey County Planning & Economic Development Director Jamie McMahan. "In 2013 the company repaired 18,810 circuit boards. In 2017 that number was in excess of 30,000, with demand still growing. Their move into a larger facility will enable them to add additional employees and increase their capacity, allowing them to grow into an even more dominate force in their business sector" McMahan added.

Owners of Mountain Electronics, George and Whitney Brasington, said "We feel very honored to receive this grant from the state and Yancey County. Moving to the former Taylor Togs building has been a long-term dream of ours, and we are very excited that it is coming to fruition. We just want to thank all the folks who have helped Mountain Electronics succeed over the past 18 years, especially those who have been instrumental in this grant process. We look forward to expanding the business and providing local jobs while continuing to operate as environmentally sustainable as possible."

To assist with the company's relocation from their current 4,000 square foot facility into a new 10,000 square foot facility housed at the former Taylor Togs building Yancey County Commissioners authorized the county's application for the building reuse grant through the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The grant provides \$25,000 to assist with building renovation costs associated with the project. As part of their expansion Mountain Electronics has committed

to creating five new jobs, taking their total number of employees to twenty. The company's own five-year goal looks to double their current staff, adding at least three employees per year through 2022 to keep up with growing industry demands. Building renovations will begin immediately allowing Mountain Electronics to begin production in the newly renovated, state of the art facility by June 2018.

"Every county understands the importance of job creation and retention. While recruiting industry is certainly important to every economic developer, the most rewarding success in this business is to see a local entrepreneur begin, grow, and have great success right here in our own county. Mountain Electronics is a prime example of such a success and I'm proud of Yancey County's leadership for taking an active role in making our community a great place to do business" added EDC Director McMahan.

"Here in Yancey County we have proven again and again that we want to be a partner with our businesses, both large and small. Their success is our success as a community. We as County Commissioners remain dedicated to doing all that we can to make Yancey County not only a wonderful place to live, but also a wonderful place to do business and thrive" said Yancey County Commission Chairman Johnny Riddle.

The building owner added "We are pleased that this dynamic industry selected our facility for the long term location of their business. It is exciting that the building continues to be revitalized with this addition. We're impressed to see the success that Mountain Electronics has experienced and the impact it will have on the county with the expected job growth."

Denise Girouard, co-owner of Cornerstone Real Estate whose firm handles leasing of the facility added "The Micaville Loop location experiences high traffic counts at the intersection of Hwy 19E and Hwy 80. It has areas available for retail, office and production. We look forward to more business growth in the remainder of the building. This has been a real team effort by Mountain Electronics Owners George & Whitney Brasington, Yancey County Director of Economic Development, Jamie McMahan and Yancey County Manager Nathan Bennett."