

Press Release: July 18, 2006

## **ENGLAND'S STOVE WORKS ANNOUNCES MAJOR EXPANSION IN AMHERST COUNTY**

Ron England, Chairman and CEO of England's Stove Works, Inc., announced plans today to construct a 75,000 square foot manufacturing facility at the Amelon Commerce Center in Madison Heights.

England's Stove Works was founded in 1976 by Ron England and his family, and has operated at its present location at Five Forks Road in Monroe since shortly after its founding.

England said "England's has grown rapidly over the past several years. We knew we needed to make another expansion, as it simply was not possible to fit anything else into our present facility. We looked at several possible locations, and decided that the Amelon Commerce Center is the best location for us. We've worked with the County, and they have done a great job convincing us that we need to keep all of our business in Amherst County. The Board of Supervisors and the Economic Development team have been very helpful throughout the entire process."

Tom Fore, chairman of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors, said "The Board of Supervisors is extremely pleased that England's Stove Works has decided to expand here in Amherst County. They have been a vital part of our business community for many years, and we appreciate the confidence they have shown in Amherst County as a good place to do business."

England's Stove Works is one of the largest manufacturers of wood pellet stoves in the United States with annual sales in excess of \$24 million. The company sells through large home improvement chains such as Home Depot and Lowe's; farm and ranch stores such as TSC; as well as co-ops and smaller regional chains. The company expects to break ground on its expansion within a few weeks and complete the new facility this fall. They anticipate the addition of 50 to 75 new jobs at the new facility.

Amelon Commerce Center is a 120 acre industrial park owned by Amherst County located on State Route 130 just west of the new Rte 29 Bypass.

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