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St. Tammany Corporation Confirms Costco Wholesale Coming to St. Tammany Parish Global Wholesale Retailer Choosing Northshore to Anchor \$45.8 Million Investment on Pinnacle Parkway

Mandeville, LA – St. Tammany Corporation CEO Chris Masingill and St. Tammany Parish President Mike Cooper are excited to confirm that Costco Wholesale, a multinational Fortune 500 corporation which operates a global chain of high-end, membership-only warehouse club retail stores, will build a new 159,000 square foot facility in the Nord-du-Lac commerce park on Pinnacle Parkway in Covington. The \$45.8 million investment will create 150 new jobs with full-time salaries averaging \$59,155. The project is estimated to generate over \$60 million in new sales tax and property tax revenue for St. Tammany Parish over the next 10 years. Market research shows that communities in which Costco has a presence draw shoppers from up to a 60-mile radius and reach 30 to 40 percent more unique shoppers than other major retailers.

"Costco Wholesale is a highly desirable brand with a high-caliber retail operation that prioritizes employee wellbeing and adds significant value to communities," said Masingill. "This significant investment in St. Tammany Parish is also a great example of what happens when economic development, local government, and civic and community leaders work together to ensure the overall success of a project."

Costco is often recognized among Fortune 500 companies for their focus on their employees. The company is invested in attracting and retaining talent, creating a safe and productive work environment, and ensuring all employees receive equal and competitive wages and benefits with opportunities to grow. Most of their management teams are promoted from within. Many current Warehouse Managers and Vice Presidents were once Stockers, Cashier Assistants, or started in clerical positions for the company.

Costco aims to contribute to the health and well-being of the communities where they do business, and where their employees and members live and work. The company facilitates charitable donations focused on children, education, and health and human services and provides financial assistance to underrepresented minorities. They also have community investment programs in place to support economic development in communities of color. The company works to provide a friendly and supportive work environment that fosters a climate of

inclusion and employment opportunities for a diverse workforce. The company is also proud to support veterans with career opportunities.

"We are elated to announce that one of our nation's leading companies, Costco, is investing in St. Tammany Parish and will be opening a store in the Covington area," said Cooper. "Costco is a company that aligns with our Parish's values, in providing a family-first atmosphere, where employees thrive and customers are welcomed. We are thankful for Costco's 45.8-million-dollar investment in St. Tammany Parish, which will also bring well-paying jobs for our citizens."

Economic development is multifaceted and requires the partnership of many community stakeholders. St. Tammany Corporation would like to thank the Flowers Estates Civic Association leadership, Brookfield Properties, and St. Tammany Parish Government for their active and collaborative efforts to make this important project come to fruition.

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About St. Tammany Corporation: As the lead economic development organization for St. Tammany, <u>St. Tammany</u> <u>Corporation</u> serves as the comprehensive resource center for business services throughout the parish. St. Tammany Corporation's services include business retention, site selection, workforce development, research and data services, state and local incentives, business attraction, talent retention, certified site development, relocation support, and marketing St. Tammany. Since the organization's launch in 2018, St. Tammany Corporation facilitated business expansion and attraction announcements representing over \$68 million in capital investment and 1,615 new and retained jobs in St. Tammany Parish.