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**St. Tammany-Based Food Manufacturing Company Announces Major Expansion**  
*Project Will Add Up to 150 New Jobs and Rehab Blighted Building in East St. Tammany*

SLIDELL, La – Today, BEC Co-Packers, a food manufacturing company based in eastern St. Tammany Parish, joined St. Tammany Corporation in announcing the company’s major \$2.5 million expansion of its operations and footprint in the community.

The expansion entails the purchase and rehabilitation of a vacant, dilapidated 60,000 sq. ft. building and 3.1 acres of land at 61025 Hwy 11 in Slidell. The building, which has been underutilized and out of commerce for 15 years, will be divided to allow 9,000 sq. ft. to serve as space for new production lines and 49,000 sq. ft. to be used for warehousing. This expansion will bring BEC’s total footprint within St. Tammany Parish to 115,000 sq. ft. Additionally, following the opening of the new expansion facility on Hwy 11, a new state-of-the-art production line—the company’s fourth—is planned for mid-summer 2023. This new line will allow for the addition of new clients with needs for sports and hydration drinks, and a fifth new production line will potentially be added in early 2024.

BEC currently has approximately 65 employees, and the first expansion will have a need for approximately 35 to 50 new employees per shift. Within six months of the start of production in the newly renovated facility, the company expects to transition to operating two daily shifts. Each new additional production line would require approximately the same number of new employees. Ultimately, this project is expected to add an estimated 125 to 150 quality jobs to St. Tammany Parish.

BEC Co-Packers is a growth-minded company that plans to keep its operations in St. Tammany Parish long-term. BEC currently has three production lines capable of filling glass and plastic bottles, jars, and jugs. The company specializes in both hot- and cold-fill products. Recognizable local brands and products that are made at the BEC facility include Louisiana Fish Fry and ZEA Rotisserie Bar Sauces.

While BEC primarily provides services as a “co-packer,” or contract packager, for multiple well-known clients, BEC prides itself in originating new product development—from recipe to formula—at its onsite state-of-the-art test kitchen and under the direction of the company’s own



food scientists and research and development team on staff. The company has its own private label products forthcoming following the completion of its new production line and warehousing facility, which will include teas, flavored waters, sports drinks, and hydration drinks such as their first original beverage concept, A-GAME.

“Our company is aggressively focused on the future, and I am proud that we are able to continue to grow right here in St. Tammany Parish,” said BEC Co-Packers CEO Mike Boudreaux. “We hold our products to the highest standards and pride ourselves on continuously enhancing our in-house capabilities to deliver the best quality products to our clients and consumers. This project is reflective of the high value we place on excellence in our field of work.”

“Seeing another St. Tammany-based company expand in our parish is a wonderful sign of progress,” said St. Tammany Parish President Mike Cooper. “I am thankful for BEC Co-Packers’ continued investment into our community, which will bring more jobs and more opportunities to our Parish.”

“I am proud that this company is continuing to elevate the business landscape in our community and creating economic opportunities for the people who live near their development in District 14,” said St. Tammany Parish District 14 Councilman Ronald Randolph. “BEC’s philosophy of hiring locally and promoting from within is a model for other businesses, and I commend them on their planned growth and expansion in St. Tammany Parish.”

“This project has given us the opportunity to demonstrate how government should work: when we see unique opportunities, we want to be able to step in and expedite the process to assist businesses so they can thrive right where they are,” said St. Tammany Parish Council Chairman Jake Airey. “I congratulate BEC Co-Packers on their planned expansion and look forward to their continued success.”

“This project has shown itself to be a model economic development project for St. Tammany Parish on all fronts,” said Chris Masingill, CEO of St. Tammany Corporation. “From a growth-oriented, high-quality manufacturing and distribution company, to supportive and engaged elected officials, to the plans to rejuvenate an underused greyfield site, this project has all the right ingredients for success. Additionally, I will note that, because of the highly sensitive timeline required by this project, moving this expansion project forward would not have been possible without the support of Parish Government and Parish Council members such as Ronald Randolph, Chris Canulette, Arthur Laughlin, and not least of all, Council Chairman Jake Airey. I want to thank all parties involved in helping to bring this project to fruition.”

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**About BEC Co-Packers:** [BEC CO-PACKERS](#) is an aggressive food manufacturing company centrally located in the southernmost part of the United States. As both a co-packer and new product developer, BEC specializes in cold-fill but also provides services for hot-fill, preservative free, high acid products, and some low acid products. BEC has three production lines capable of filling glass bottles, PET plastic bottles, jars and jugs and spouted re-sealable pouches. BEC has the ability and space to increase its production capacities with the alignment of any new high-volume progressive clients.

**About St. Tammany Corporation:** As the lead economic development organization for St. Tammany, [St. Tammany Corporation](#) 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 \$213 million in capital investment and 1,989 new and retained jobs in St. Tammany Parish.