



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cooperative Agreement Between Enviva and Sunset Park Establishes Positive Tone for Economic Development

Wilmington, N.C. — Developing a working and mutually-beneficial relationship is one of the hallmarks of progress. Putting that cooperative relationship in writing is an enviable success of which our community can be proud.

When wood-pellet producer Enviva and the residents of Sunset Park signed a cooperative agreement at the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce on June 8th, it was a perfect example of why opening the lines of communication and developing an understanding and appreciation of opposing viewpoints is the avenue our community should strive to follow. Too often when new economic development projects arise, various camps form and take sides before learning details about a project, and even before sharing concerns. Although the stage was set for that to happen when Enviva announced plans to build two 170-foot-tall domes to house wood pellets at the NC State Ports, next door to the Sunset Park community, both sides came together and developed a spirit of cooperation that enabled progress.

“We are proud of the way Enviva and the residents of Sunset Park handled their concerns and differences,” said Wilmington Chamber President & CEO Connie Majure-Rhett. “They have set a great example for our community and I’m hopeful that future economic development projects that create concerns are handled in a similar fashion. By sitting down at the table and entering into open discussions, we can continue to develop working relationships that are beneficial to the entire community and aid economic prosperity and job growth.”

About the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce is the largest membership-based business association in Southeastern North Carolina. The Chamber’s mission is to ensure economic prosperity throughout our region. This is accomplished by: creating a diverse, inclusive organization that serves as a strong voice for businesses in the Greater Wilmington area; offering unique membership benefits, services and education; and challenging government officials to address long term community and business interests.