

Alexander County Economic Development

News Release

621 Liledoun Road, Taylorsville, NC 28681

**FOR RELEASE
IMMEDIATELY**

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Jasper Group to create 40 jobs in Alexander County

The Alexander County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has announced that Jasper Group, headquartered in Indiana, will locate a production facility in Alexander County creating 40 new jobs.

Economic Development Director David Icenhour made the announcement at the Feb. 25 meeting of the Alexander County Board of Commissioners.

Jasper Group, formerly known as Jasper Seating, has been a producer of commercial furniture for 79 years. The company sells office seating and case goods for the office market, for the school and institutional market, and for the hospitality market.

The location in Alexander County is a 93,000 square foot facility which formerly housed operations of Kincaid Furniture. The facility has been empty for the past year, and to facilitate Jasper's move, the local EDC applied for and received an \$81,000 building reuse grant from the NC Rural Development Center.

"Having Jasper Group chose Alexander County and Taylorsville for this project is a great benefit for the community," said Icenhour. "This facility is located within the City of Taylorsville, so both the town and county benefit from 40 new jobs and from the increased tax base. The renovation and use of an empty building is important for the community, and I appreciate the assistance from the NC Rural Center."

While many furniture makers have shuttered their operations or consolidated manufacturing overseas, Jasper Group has continued to find a niche producing American-made, custom, commercial seating and case goods.

"Our products are 95 percent domestically manufactured," said Vice President Brian Lish. "We are an \$80 million company, and sales have grown at a consistent rate of 10 to 15 percent each year for the last ten years. We are very excited about our Alexander County location, and we look forward to continued growth."

Jasper Group has eight U.S. manufacturing facilities. In addition to the Taylorsville facility, Jasper Group recently purchased the former Blanton & Moore production facility in Barium Springs, NC.