



**FOR RELEASE:** May 3, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

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## **Governors New and Expanding Industry Reports show Dallas County in the top 50% of Job Creation and Capital Investment for Fiscal Year 2015**

EDA Executive Director Wayne Vardaman along with Judge Kim Ballard, Mayor George Evans, and EDA Chairman Andy Stewart announced today that Dallas County is in the top 50% of counties in Alabama for job creation and capital investments for the fiscal year 2015.

“We had one new company, Aquila Recovery Products, and six expansion projects in 2015 for a combined total of 241 jobs and \$63,035,099 in capital investment,” said Vardaman (See report for details).

Judge Ballard and Mayor Evans stated they were very pleased with the report and proud to have been in the upper 50% of Alabama’s 67 counties as far as job growth and capital investment.

Vardaman also stated that if you compare Dallas County with other counties, we have been very competitive. Our unemployment rate has steadily gotten better, from a high of 19% in 2008 to 9% in 2015. “It takes about 125 jobs to move the needle 1%,” said Vardaman.

“This report was excellent, but it is not all inclusive. We know of a couple of companies that did not report that could account for an additional 60 jobs”, said Stewart.

Vardaman thanked the companies for their commitment to Dallas County. Without them, this could not be possible. Selma/Dallas County is home to over 25 manufacturers. In fact, we have enough jobs that we draw over 5,200 employees from surrounding counties to work. These jobs cover healthcare, manufacturing, education, government and retail.

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