

**Lisa Stenzel**

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**From:** Cass County Economic Development Corporation [gail.leverson@co.cass.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 2015 7:32 AM  
**To:** lisa.stenzel@co.cass.mn.us  
**Subject:** It's a New Year for Jobs and Business!

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January 2015

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**Ridgeline Manufacturing, LLC**, has completed their Move Back to Pillager. I enjoyed working with Nick and Julie Newman when they started in 2007. They moved out of our county during the economic downturn, so last fall I was really happy to get their call asking for help to move back to Cass!

They wanted to expand their marine line as soon as they got here and needed options to finance it. We completed the business plan with them and now are financing it. They actually have two new loans -- one from us at the Cass County EDC and a partner loan from the Entrepreneur Fund. They will manufacture fish houses, and dock kits along with their aluminum docks. With the new products they were able to attract larger retail customers, such as L & M Supply.

"It's good to be back 'Home,'" said the Newman's. "To have the EDC and EF help with this project has really helped Ridgeline streamline our products and expand into bigger chains of stores." They will create and retain 12 jobs.

**How does this fit our Project Priorities? We value our time and focus on businesses that 1) create more than 5 jobs, 2) create jobs that pay more than \$12 per hour, 3) develop \$1 million of tax value and 4) are "Shovel Ready."** Ridgeline met three of these four criteria.

It is a pleasure to have returning customers. I look forward to working with the city of Pillager and Ridgeline so they can continue to expand and grow.

Sincerely,

Gail

Gail Levenson, Executive Director

218.947.7522

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## **Do You Know of Someone Who is not an EDC Member?**

Oh my Goodness -- what a great opportunity! Tell them why you support this organization and the results your investment. Invite your friends to join:

\$110 per year for individuals  
\$275 per year for businesses

<http://www.casscountyedc.com/membership.shtml>

Call Lisa for more information: 218.947.7523

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