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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commissioner-Driven Economic Incentive Brings New Industry and Local Jobs
Madison County, NC – September 29, 2026

Almost two years after Hurricane Helene, State, County, and Town of Hot Springs officials joined leaders of Advanced BioGas Systems (ABS) on September 24, 2026, to open the Hot Springs ABS Facility. County leadership had begun discussions with ABS before Helene about establishing a facility in Madison County. ABS manufactures equipment that extracts methane gas from solid waste landfill sites. ABS previously operated a facility in Buncombe County, which Helene destroyed.

In June of 2025, the Madison County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt an economic development resolution and submitted a revitalization facility grant application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce to leverage $95,000 in state Rural Engagement and Investment Programs funds. The County match was $5,000 for a total of $100,000.00. To qualify for the incentive, ABS committed to creating 20 new full-time positions and investing $2 million in an existing facility in Madison County. ABS purchased and spent millions of dollars revitalizing the former Peerless Blower facility in Hot Springs.

During the 24 September 2026 ribbon-cutting ceremony, County and State leaders presented ABS with a $100,000 check for meeting the grant agreement requirements. By then, ABS had invested in the facility and created 20 new full-time positions with an average salary of $56,000. In addition to the new positions, ABS relied heavily on local contractors to revitalize the facility. During the ceremony, Vice Chairman Hensley thanked County Manager Rod Honeycutt and April Riddle for developing and monitoring the incentive through to completion. According to Honeycutt, "In addition to marking a new milestone in Hurricane Helene recovery, working with ABS leadership to revitalize the old Peerless Blower facility and create jobs for our community through a joint State and County economic incentive is a great example of private and public partnership success."

Eric Stuehrenberg, Director of Manufacturing, Advanced BioGas Systems, said, "the revitalization of the facility represents more than a new location for ABS, it represents the next chapter in the history of a building that has been an important part of the Hot Springs community for more than 70 years. This building has already had many chapters, and now we have the opportunity to open the door to the next one with ABS and the greater Landfill Group team. We are proud to be here in Hot Springs, proud of what this team has accomplished, and excited about what the future holds. We are proud to be here in Hot Springs, and we are grateful for the support we have received from Madison County, the Town of Hot Springs, state leaders, local businesses, and the community. This has truly been a partnership, and we look forward to being part of this community for many years to come. We have taken a historic building and given it a new purpose, one that supports what ABS is doing today while creating room for future growth. We see a tremendous amount of opportunity ahead of us, and we are excited about what ABS and the Landfill Group can accomplish here in Hot Springs."

Vice Chairman Jeremy Hensley, along with Commissioners Matthew Wechtel and Alan Wyatt, NC. Senator Ralph Hise, and NC Representative Mark Pless, helped present the $100,000.00 check. Senator Hise explained, "What is unique here is when County Commissioners, local leaders, and municipal officials come together to pull industry to an area," and closed with, "This is what recovery looks like in Western North Carolina."

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NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MADISON COUNTY
Date September 24, 2020
Pay to the Order of ABS
$100,000.00
One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars
For Building Reuse Program
Madison County Board of Commissioners