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**LOCAL COMPANY EXPANDS WITH INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT AND JOBS WITH HELP OF LED
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Slidell Company Committed to More Success in St. Tammany Despite Ongoing Pandemic

MANDEVILLE, La – Today, Louisiana Economic Development Secretary Don Pierson joined Thomas Pump & Machinery, Inc. CEO James Thomas and St. Tammany Corporation CEO Chris Masingill to formally announce the company’s expansion of its existing product line to include more pumps for the food processing industry as well as purchase new manufacturing equipment in an effort to continue to grow and improve its services. This expansion also includes the hiring of five additional full-time employees at the company’s facility in Slidell, Louisiana.

Thomas Pump & Machinery, Inc. is a manufacturer, distributor, and service provider for industrial pumps and equipment with headquarters in Louisiana since 1985. For 35 years, the company has manufactured the highest quality equipment for a variety of industries. Additionally, Thomas Pump offers repair services and custom designed systems tailored to meet the needs and specifications of their wide range of clients.

St. Tammany Corporation worked directly with Thomas Pump & Machinery, Inc. to pursue LED’s Quality Jobs program allowing the company to receive a cash rebate for creating high-wage jobs and promoting economic development.

“We have enjoyed working with St. Tammany Corporation and incorporating LED’s Quality Jobs program into our hiring objectives,” said James Thomas. “We have targeted high performing individuals through this program and the impact to our organization is recognized. As we continue to grow our business, this will be a fundamental aspect to our long-term success.”

“I am proud to join with local leaders to celebrate Thomas Pump’s reinvestment in its operations,” said Secretary Don Pierson of Louisiana Economic Development. “A Louisiana-grown company, they exemplify the Louisiana spirit of tenacity and foresight, positioning themselves for continued success by adding new equipment and adding additional employees. They are joining the growing list of Louisiana businesses who are succeeding despite the global economic challenges, and we congratulate them on this significant achievement.”

“It is always gratifying to see this Louisiana-based company, Thomas Pump, expand and grow their services and offer additional employment opportunities to our citizens,” said Mike Cooper, St. Tammany Parish President. “I want to thank St. Tammany Corporation for their continued commitment to helping all businesses utilize the resources available to them.”

“We welcome growth and expansion in the City of Slidell, and we are proud to have Thomas Pump & Machinery, Inc. here,” said Mayor Greg Cromer. “This company’s continued commitment to invest and grow in St. Tammany by creating more opportunities for our residents reinforces why our parish is the ideal place for businesses to locate or expand. When economic development and government work together, great things will continue to happen.”

St. Tammany Corporation prioritizes providing hands-on business and technical assistance to expanding companies here in St. Tammany,” said St. Tammany Corporation CEO Chris Masingill. “As Thomas Pump adds new jobs and invests in new equipment at their Slidell facility, they are once again choosing St. Tammany as their destination of choice for their business and their talented team to thrive.”

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About St. Tammany Corporation: As the lead economic development organization for St. Tammany, the St. Tammany Corporation functions as the comprehensive resource center for business services throughout the parish. The services provided by the St. Tammany Corporation include, but are not limited to, business retention, site selection, workforce development, research and data services, state and local incentives, business attraction, talent retention, certified site development, relocation support, and marketing St. Tammany.