

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: May 17, 2006

Contact: Lauren Carrier
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 40 JOBS IN MOORE COUNTY
\$25,000 One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps American Growler Locate in N.C.

RALEIGH-Gov. Mike Easley today announced that American Growler, makers of specialty military vehicles, will move its operations to North Carolina, creating 40 new jobs and investing \$662,000 over the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$25,000 One North Carolina Fund grant.

“American Growler’s decision to move its operations to North Carolina is an excellent win for Moore County,” Easley said. “Our solid reputation in both the military and automotive business sectors demonstrates we have made the right investments to develop the skilled, talented and innovative workforce companies are looking for.”

American Growler will move its operations from Ocala, Fla., to Robbins where it will produce off-road tactical military vehicles to be used with the V22 Osprey aircraft. While wages will vary by job function, the expected average weekly wage of the new jobs is \$615 not including benefits, which is higher than the Moore County average weekly wage of \$552 not including benefits.

According to Bill Crisp, President of American Growler, there were a number of reasons why AGI selected North Carolina for their factory. Among them were the combination of skilled labor and available facilities in Northern Moore County caused by the textile industry moving offshore, the continuing education for our employees offered by Sandhills Community College and the grants provided by the One North Carolina Fund and Moore County to help defray the costs of moving. Ray Ogden of Moore County Partners in Progress did any outstanding job of selling the advantages of Moore County and helping arrange the grants to attract us said Mr. Crisp. In addition, Mr. Crisp who has lived in Moore County since 1996 says it’s a terrific place to live.

The One North Carolina Fund assists the state in industry recruitment and expansion by providing financial assistance through local governments to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. One North Carolina Fund grants require and are contingent upon a local match. Through the use of this Fund, more than 18,000 jobs and \$2.5 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible include the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Moore County Partners in Progress.

For more information about the company and employment opportunities, please contact Mr. Crisp at American.Growler@yahoo.com

###