



August 26, 2020

SK Innovation Statement on Job Creation at the Georgia Battery Site

SK Innovation is committed to creating thousands of jobs for Americans through its SK Battery America site, and we take the questions raised about employment at the construction site very seriously. The construction workers at the site are recruited and hired by our contractors and are not SK employees. SK Innovation has told its contractors from the start to place a priority on hiring local American workers.

SK Innovation looked into both matters raised this week by Fox 5. Our contractors for the positions in question have assured us that their workforces meet U.S. employment requirements. SK Battery America does not directly hire the construction workers and has never made a job posting or placed recruitment ads for construction workers at the site anywhere, including Micronesia. The sub-contractor responsible for this area of work has told us that any workers from this or other regions were hired through a legitimate process.

SK Innovation also has asked our contractors about a training program for Korean welders in Georgia and has found no information yet that such an operation existed to support the SK Battery America site. The sub-contractors responsible have confirmed that any off-site workshops perform welding for the site, not training programs.

We will continue to fully cooperate with U.S. authorities and have instructed our contractors to do the same in resolving any issues about the hiring process.

It is unfortunate that Fox 5 continues to present a false view of an SK Battery America project that ranks as one of the largest economic development projects in Georgia's history. The SK Battery America site has already created more than 1,000 American jobs in the construction phase and will create another 2,600 American jobs when the EV battery plants at the site reach full production.

In the midst of a pandemic, SK has not only kept the construction of the site on schedule but has increased its social and financial commitment to Georgia. SK Innovation has donated more than \$400,000 to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Georgia. SK Innovation has also increased its committed investment in the site to \$2.6 billion.

The recent news reports and commentary disregard SK's true contributions to the local community. The coverage also contains one-sided allegations made by a competitor and litigant.

On the matter of construction jobs, SK has emphasized with its contractors the importance of



hiring local workers as much as possible, considering various factors such as expertise, schedule, availability, and types of work performed while in compliance with U.S. law and regulations. We believe our contractors are appropriately hiring local workers to carry out the project. These reports overlook the American jobs already created and the thousands more that will be created long-term when the site reaches full production.

On the matter of the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), we believe the recent report by Fox 5 failed to be impartial by only stressing LG Chem’s arguments. The matter is currently being reviewed by the full Commission “in its entirety” with possibility of a remand. The SK Battery America site is a mega-project that will have a lasting positive impact on the U.S. economy. SK Innovation and SK Battery America are working around the clock to complete the plants at the site on schedule and will make sure that the on-going legal dispute does not affect their operation.

The recent characterization of the SK Innovation site as failing to create jobs for Americans is false and entirely counter to reality. The truth is the SK Battery America site is one of the largest economic development projects in Georgia’s history with the potential to positively transform the region for decades to come.

###