

VIEW*&*VISIONS

Bowles *Rice*

BOWLESRICE.COM

FALL/WINTER 2023



From Our Managing Partner

What an exciting time to be in West Virginia. It is fall in the Mountain State. I am looking out my office window at a clear blue sky and a mountain painted in beautiful fall colors. I would argue that this is the most beautiful time of the year to live in West Virginia. Fall also marks the beginning of hunting season, and for those of us who enjoy hunting, it is an exciting time.

But there is much more going on in our region that is creating the real excitement. As you read the articles contained in this edition of *Views & Visions*, you will realize how many amazing cutting-edge opportunities are flourishing or coming to our region. If you remember, our Spring/Summer edition was focused on The New Economy and was full of articles highlighting all the new economic development going on around our region. This issue focuses on the new pioneers of the Ohio River Valley and the renaissance happening throughout the area.

Our established companies are thriving by providing world-class products and services. Wheeling-Nippon Steel, located in Follansbee, West Virginia, has the only facility of its type in North America where five different products are coated under one roof. Hino Motors, which moved to its new facility in Mineral Wells in 2019, states that every medium- and heavy-duty Hino truck built since 2007 was built in the Mountain State. The TROY Group is providing cutting-edge document security that protects sensitive corporate and personal information. We all know how critical this type of security is in today's times.

Many of the newer, pioneering projects coming to the Ohio River Valley represent some of the largest investments ever made in our region, and each of these projects will serve as a cornerstone to the area's new

economy. Nucor's new \$3.1 billion sheet steel mill, which recently broke ground in Mason County, will produce the lowest embodied carbon steel in the world, and it will be 100% recyclable. Perhaps even more impressive is Nucor's ranking as the Most Admired Steel Company in the U.S., with an employee retention of more than 90%. Fidelis New Energy, which is also coming to Mason County, will construct a modern facility that will produce clean hydrogen and so much more. The three pillars of their facility will represent an investment of over \$6 billion that will bolster West Virginia's contribution to an American clean energy future. BHE Renewables, which will locate on the former Century Aluminum site in Jackson County, West Virginia, plans to build a first-of-its-kind microgrid, powered by renewable energy resources. This project will also house Precision Castparts, who will build a titanium melt facility, and Our Next Energy (ONE), an energy storage company that will store and manufacture batteries on site. All of these ventures represent new cutting-edge projects that make our future very bright.

In order to ensure the success of these companies and their projects, our local economic development entities, convention bureaus, industry associations and education systems have embraced these projects and are working hard to provide local support and community involvement. It is critical that we support these projects and provide the proper amenities, housing, education, encouragement, and employees that will be needed to ensure a long and prosperous future for these ventures, our citizens, and our region.

Once you read this issue, I am sure you will agree that these are indeed very exciting times for our region and the new pioneers of the Ohio River Valley. **W**



Marc Monteleone
Bowles Rice LLP

Marc Monteleone is the Managing Partner of Bowles Rice. Elected in January of 2022, his responsibilities include leadership, management, and administration of the firm. His legal practice includes federal and state taxation, mergers and acquisitions, oil and gas law, construction law, commercial law, and real estate development. Monteleone, who authored West Virginia's design-build legislation, was appointed Chair of the West Virginia Design-Build Review Board – a position he held for nearly 20 years – by former Governor Cecil Underwood. He is also a Past President of the Independent Oil & Gas Association of West Virginia and currently serves as the Tax Committee Chair for the Gas & Oil Association of West Virginia.