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Subject: SunTrust Bank Merger Application Comments

Please allow me to introduce myself as the owner and CEO of MERRICK Industries, Inc. We are a 111-year old company; a family-owned industrial weighing manufacturing business with 150 employees and customers all over the world. MERRICK has appreciated a long and positive relationship with SunTrust as our bank partner for over a decade.

I appreciate your interest in receiving comments regarding the SunTrust merger application with BB&T. From my point of view as a longstanding client, I wholeheartedly support this merger as it will benefit both customers and shareholders. Both banks have built excellent reputations across financial responsibility and community investment. By joining forces, the combined entity will gain from each other's strengths, while realizing more operating efficiency through economies of scale. Competition in the industry is fierce. This merger will allow the new, larger bank to sustainably provide financial services with greater productivity and value to clients. At the same time, I believe the past commitment to community will continue. SunTrust has been an exemplary presence in our local area by helping people through related causes. This goes far beyond the good that is provided through monetary donations. SunTrust has long supported their employees to give generously to our community with time and personal involvement.

SunTrust has been a valued partner for our company, through both good times and bad. We have relied on loans and credit to finance our projects and growth. But we have also benefitted from the many personal relationships which have earned great trust by assisting us in areas of strategy, operating costs, and compliance. By adding more knowledge, products, and experiences from BB&T, I expect the new combined bank to provide even better service and community contributions for many years to come.

Best Regards,


Joe K. Tannehill, Jr.
President & CEO