



EMPLOYEE-OWNED S CORPORATIONS OF AMERICA

## West Virginia

- ★ **Employee-owners at ESCA Companies in West Virginia: 600+**
- ★ **Companies with locations in West Virginia (9): Amsted Industries • Black & Veatch • Columbia Forest Products • EA Engineering • Ferrellgas • HDR, Inc. • HNTB • Houchens • Lewis Tree Service • Mott Corporation • Wright Service Corp.**
- ★ ESCA companies located in West Virginia cover a broad range of industries from construction and engineering to design to energy and forest products.
- ★ ESCA is the only organization that speaks exclusively for the interests of over 170 S Corporation ESOP Companies with approximately 205,00 employee-

## Facts about S ESOPs...

- ✓ While nearly 46% of working Americans do not have access to an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan, **all S corporation ESOP participants do have a plan**, and that plan is **wholly funded by their companies**.
- ✓ More than 55% of Americans over the age of 55 have no retirement savings. Meanwhile, S ESOPs are powerful savings vehicles:
  - Retirement **account balances are meaningfully higher** than the average 401(k).
  - **Distributions to participants totaled nearly \$38 billion** from 2002-2014.
  - Today, workers are seeing **\$14 billion in new savings** each year.
- ✓ By increasing capital ownership, **ESOPs reduce wealth inequality** and do not have the effect of trading employee ownership for wages.
- ✓ S ESOPs in particular lead to **greater firm longevity and higher wages, wage growth, job stability, retirement plan contributions, employment, and sales**.
- ✓ From 2002-2012, **S ESOPs outperformed the S&P 500 by 62% percent** in terms of total return per participant and **net assets in S ESOP accounts increased over 300%**.
- ✓ S ESOPs have strikingly fewer loan defaults than other businesses: **on average, an unusually low 0.2 percent annually**.
- ✓ On net, **employment among S ESOP firms increased over 60%** from 2001-2011 as compared to zero job growth in the private sector, and S ESOP companies weathered the economic storms better than their non-ESOP counterparts in **job creation and preservation**.
- ✓ Every year S ESOPs' higher productivity, profitability, job stability and job growth generate a collective **\$19 billion in economic value that otherwise would not exist**.