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**BECKLEY, WV** – New River Gorge Regional Development Authority (NRGRDA) and consulting partner, Emergent Opportunities, Inc., will be hosting a public forum to continue the discussion about the future of the outdoor industry in the New River Gorge region.

Outdoor NRG is an economic development initiative being led by NRGRDA bringing together a broad coalition of outdoor vendors, retailers, enthusiasts, guides, manufacturing companies, related businesses, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, economic development leaders, funders and others interested in the outdoor industry. Outdoor NRG strives to retain and grow a unique, healthy population of businesses that are directly related to (or complimentary of) the outdoor industry: creating jobs, a stable workforce, and a growing regional population.

“This workshop will be the third in a series of public meetings that have been held regionally over the past nine months”, said Lisa Gale, NRGRDA Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives.

“We have a great group of stakeholders who show up ready to work! They are engaged, motivated, and willing to collaborate as we work strategically on ideas to grow the local outdoor economy.”

The event will be held on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. at The Grove in Fayetteville, WV.

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**About New River Gorge Regional Development Authority (NRGRDA):**

The New River Gorge region is a collection of vibrant, prosperous, futuristic-thinking people and employers. It is our mission to initiate, facilitate and support the economic and community development efforts within the counties of Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh and Summers located in this region of West Virginia. NRGRDA stimulates the regional economy through business expansion and retention efforts, including an extensive portfolio of financial services, the management of sites for new companies locating to our region, and serving as a point of access for local service providers which offer a variety of technical assistance for business owners.