

John W. Bender, Entrepreneur

Co-Founder of the original Pizza Hut Company, Chairman of Bender Lumber Co.

Mr. John W. Bender utilizes five decades of experience as one of Indiana's most respected entrepreneurs in his role as chief marketing officer and chairman of First Capital Group. As the founder of several well-known southern Indiana businesses, he has a track record of successfully propelling ventures from concept to commercialization.

Mr. Bender was one of the founders of the original Pizza Hut Company. After leaving the business, he became one of its largest franchisees in the Midwest, building a twenty-five-store chain throughout the state of Indiana. He also serves as chairman of Bender Lumber, an eight-store retail building materials chain in south-central Indiana.

Mr. Bender is actively involved in regional economic development initiatives and sits on the board of several local companies. He is a past vice chairman of the White House Conference on Small Business and has served on the Federal Reserve Small Business Committee.