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Alachua County Board of County Commissioners  
12 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Subject: Large Animal Meat Processing Facility

Dear Chairperson Wheeler and Alachua County Commissioners,

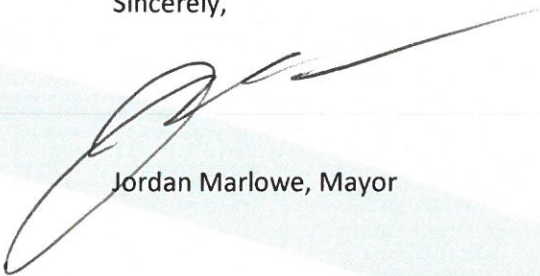
The City of Newberry is pleased to provide a letter of support and express our intent to collaborate with Alachua County on developing a Meat Processing Center in Alachua County. Our new Environmental Park is an ideal location for this facility. It is close to many of our small and mid-size ranchers, which are the target market for the center and by co-locating these facilities, we can assist with the site development and robust wastewater services, which are critical needs for the center.

As a city, we have prioritized protecting our agricultural heritage, investing in an Agri-tech Park, and embracing industries that will help us continue to preserve and grow our farming sector. We are looking forward to expanding this commitment by hosting a processing center that will help ranchers meet the demand for more local meats and expand diversified local markets for food. This center will also be a regional hub for workforce training and development, in collaboration with Santa Fe College, UF/IFAS and CareerSource. This will provide opportunities for skilled jobs with good wages in our community and allow us to be a destination for those seeking credentialing.

The City of Newberry looks forward to working with Alachua County and other partners to develop a robust center with opportunities to collaborate on cutting-edge technologies that will reduce waste, energy, and water use in the meat processing industry. It will also provide a location to research new food products and study the impacts of this investment on our local economy.

Together we can build this critical local food infrastructure for Alachua County.

Sincerely,



Jordan Marlowe, Mayor