



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

McPherson Governmental Campus

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District 1 - Craig Curry, Commissioner
District 2 - Kathy Bryant, Commissioner
District 3 - Matt McClain, Vice Chair
District 4 - Carl Zalak III, Chairman
District 5 - Michelle Stone, Commissioner

August 4, 2026

Mike Orlando
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
1875 Orange Ave E
Tallahassee, FL 32311

RE: Request for Release of Grant Funds - Bear-Resistant Container Program

Dear Mike Orlando,

Please accept this letter as Marion County's request for proceeds from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the \$25,000 grant award through the BearWise program as soon as the funds are made available.

In accordance with previous discussions, Marion County has established a program to provide residents with access to bear-resistant garbage containers at a discounted rate. The grant funds will be used to increase the availability of bear-resistant containers for residents within Marion County.

Upon availability, please issue the grant award check made payable to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

Marion County appreciates the efforts of you and your staff, not only in securing the \$25,000 grant award, but also for your continued assistance in supporting our community's management of bears and other wildlife.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Johnson at (352) 671-8465.

Thank you,

Carl Zalak III
Chairman
Marion County Board of County Commissioners

CC: Angel Roussel, PE, Assistant County Administrator
Mark Johnson, Director, Solid Waste