



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2300
Fax: 352-438-2324

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

July 17, 2026

Victoria Collin
Acting Administrator for the Rural Business Cooperative Service
USDA Rural Development
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Rm 5803-S
STOP 3201
Washington, DC 20250-3201

RE: Support Letter - USDA MPPEP Phase IV Grant

Dear Administrator Collin:

I am pleased to express my strong support for the grant proposal submitted by Fort McCoy Meat, LLC under the USDA Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program – Phase 4. As Chairman of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, I fully support their application for 2026.

Fort McCoy Meat operates a processing facility in the community of Fort McCoy, here in Marion County, Florida. The facility was constructed in 2012 and has served our community since that time; in 2025, Fort McCoy Meat, LLC purchased the facility and has committed to investing in its future. Their proposed project will increase the plant's efficiency and processing throughput by over 50 percent, expanding the capacity available to our region's producers.

Marion County is home to a significant cattle and livestock industry, and local processing capacity is essential infrastructure for our agricultural economy. Fort McCoy Meat provides fresh, locally processed meat to area consumers while giving our cattle producers a nearby outlet to add value to their livestock rather than shipping animals long distances. This expansion will strengthen our local food system, support ranching families, and contribute to continued economic growth in the rural areas of our county.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Zalak III".

Carl Zalak, III
Chairman
Marion County Board of County Commissioners