

## Attachment: B

### **1. Support Letters**

- CareerSource Letter
- Chad Johnson Letter
- Chiefland Chamber Letter
- Levy BOCC Letter
- NF Economic Development Partnership Letter
- Tailwinds Development Letter



August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

To whom it may concern,

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion supports Levy County in their plan to enhance economic opportunities through the Florida Jobs Growth Grant Fund, which can provide critical investment to facilitate a new commercial development in the City of Chiefland.


The proposed development, anchored by an unnamed grocer and retailer, has the potential to generate over 100 FTE jobs, with the prospect of additional employment as the site evolves. According to the developer, these positions will offer competitive wages, providing a meaningful boost to household incomes and economic stability for local families.

Importantly, this initiative addresses a longstanding challenge in Levy County: the need for residents to seek employment outside the area due to limited local opportunities. Currently, over 70% of Levy County's labor force leaves the county to work each day. By creating high-quality jobs within our own community, this project will help retain talent and reduce commuting burdens.

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion stands ready to support the development process by providing hiring assistance, short-term training, and work-based learning opportunities. These services are designed to help participating businesses secure the talent they need, while ensuring local jobseekers can access new employment opportunities that offer competitive wages.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to supporting economic growth in rural Florida.

Best regards,

 2025.08.21  
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-04'00'

Thomas E. Skinner Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer  
CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion



# Representative Chad Johnson

Florida House of Representatives, District 22

105 SW 140<sup>th</sup> Court, Suite 1  
Newberry, FL 32669  
(352) 496-3700

1302 The Capitol  
402 S. Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 717-5021

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity  
Caldwell Building  
107 East Madison Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-4120

Subject: Letter of Support – Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Application for the Levy County Grocer Project

As the State Representative for House District 22, I am proud to voice my strong support for Levy County's application to the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund for the Grocer Project in the City of Chiefland.

This project is a vital step forward for our community. By improving access to essential goods and services, the Grocer Project will create jobs, expand local commerce, and provide long-term economic benefits for Levy County families. The investment will not only strengthen our local economy but also improve the overall quality of life for residents across the region.

I remain committed to advancing opportunities that directly benefit the people of Levy County, and I believe this project is an excellent example of how targeted investment can drive meaningful growth. I respectfully encourage your full consideration of Levy County's application.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of Florida's rural communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

Representative Chad Johnson  
Florida House District 22



*The Greater Chiefland Area Chamber of Commerce*

Chieflandchamber.com

[chieflandchamber@bellsouth.net](mailto:chieflandchamber@bellsouth.net)

Phone: 352-493-1849

August 20, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

The Greater Chiefland Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to express our support for the ongoing efforts in Levy County and the City of Chiefland to promote strategic economic development initiatives that bring meaningful employment opportunities and essential services to the community.

At the Chiefland Chamber, we believe that investing in the communities we serve by advocating for businesses that provide high-quality products, excellent service, and job opportunities for local residents. We recognize that access to affordable groceries and retail opportunities is a cornerstone of a healthy, thriving community. The proposed project in Chiefland aligns with this commitment by addressing both employment needs and service gaps for residents in the area.

We applaud the collaborative efforts of local government leaders, businesses, and community stakeholders who are working to enhance infrastructure and foster economic growth in Levy County.

We look forward to the continued growth and success of Levy County and remain committed to being a valued partner in these efforts.

Sincerely,  
Jeannie Lindsey  
Executive Director





**Levy County Board of County Commissioners**

PO Box 310, Bronson, Florida, 32621

310 School Street, Bronson, Florida, 32621

Phone: 352.486.5218

July 16, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As Chair of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners, I am pleased to offer my strong support for planned, strategic economic growth initiatives that will bring meaningful employment opportunities and vital services to the residents of Levy County.

Our county remains committed to supporting responsible industry growth and business expansion, especially in areas where services and employment are most needed. Projects such as the proposed grocer initiative directly address longstanding gaps in community access to essential goods, while also providing jobs and stimulating local economic activity. These efforts represent the kind of targeted development our residents deserve—development that enhances quality of life and supports economic self-sufficiency.

The Board of County Commissioners fully supports efforts to attract and sustain successful businesses that align with community needs and long-term economic goals. We recognize that these opportunities require adequate infrastructure and public-private collaboration. To that end, we remain committed to working with stakeholders, community leaders, and economic partners to strengthen the infrastructure necessary to support business growth and workforce expansion throughout Levy County.

We are proud to stand behind initiatives that help bring sustainable prosperity to our residents and ensure a brighter future for our communities.

Sincerely,

**Desiree Mills**

Chair, Levy County Board of County Commissioners



**Commissioners**

Charlie Kennedy, District 1

Rock Meeks, District 2

Desiree Mills, Chair, District 3

Tim Hodge, Vice Chair, District 4

Johnny Hiers, District 5



**Levy County Board of County Commissioners**

PO Box 310, Bronson, Florida, 32621

310 School Street, Bronson, Florida, 32621

Phone: 352.486.5218

July 16, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As County Manager for the Levy County Board of County Commissioners, I am pleased to express my full support for strategic economic development efforts aimed at bringing needed jobs, services, and infrastructure to our communities.

Levy County continues to experience growth opportunities, but also faces challenges in ensuring that all residents—particularly those in underserved areas—have access to employment, essential services, and economic stability. Projects like the grocer initiative represent a critical investment in both the health and economic vitality of our county. By filling service gaps and creating jobs, these efforts directly improve quality of life and contribute to the long-term prosperity of our region.

Our administration remains dedicated to working with business leaders, industry partners, and community stakeholders to foster economic initiatives that align with the county's priorities. We understand that responsible growth requires infrastructure investment, thoughtful planning, and collaboration, and we are committed to facilitating these efforts to benefit our residents.

We welcome and support ventures that bring sustainable economic opportunities to Levy County and look forward to continued partnerships that help meet the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

**Mary-Ellen Harper**

County Manager

Levy County Board of County Commissioners



**Commissioners**

Charlie Kennedy, District 1

Rock Meeks, District 2

Desiree Mills, Chair, District 3

Tim Hodge, Vice Chair, District 4

Johnny Hiers, District 5



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Development Department*

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*Levy County BOCC*

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*Taylor County Development Authority*

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*Union County*

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*Duke Energy*

James Bush, Director of External Affairs  
*Florida Power and Light*

Patrick Wnek, Executive Director  
*NEFEC*

Katelyn Barrington, Manager of External Affairs  
*Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative*

Melissa Terbruggen, VP for Economic Development  
and Business Services  
*CareerSource Northeast Florida*

Lauren Yeatter, Senior Planner  
*NCF Regional Planning Council*

Jeff Hendry, Executive Director  
*NFEDP*

# NORTH FLORIDA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP, INC.

August 26, 2025

To: Florida Jobs Growth Grant Review/Evaluation Team

### Re: Support for Levy County's Florida Jobs Growth Grant Application

I am writing on behalf of the North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP), our entire Board of Directors, the 14 rural counties that comprise the North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO), and all of the communities within the RAO, to express our enthusiastic support for the Florida Jobs Growth Grant (FJGG) application submitted by Levy County. The funding for the proposed road improvements and connectivity to the municipal water facilities are critical to attracting economic development to this specific area.

In fact, the County is in direct talks with a project that could bring multiple businesses to a particular site that will be directly served by these improvements. The project(s) are expected to create 100 net new FTE jobs to the County and also attract a new major grocer to the county that will have a significant impact regionally. The FJGG investments are also anticipated to attract interest in nearby industrial sites attractive for investment; these investments will be a catalyst for economic growth in one of our fiscally constrained counties and have a significant impact on the quality of life for current and future residents.

We respectfully and strongly encourage the Florida Department of Commerce to approve this FJGG application as it would provide a critical and much needed investment into a catalyst project that could advance the economic growth efforts of this area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at [jhendry@fsu.edu](mailto:jhendry@fsu.edu) or at (850) 443-7103.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hendry, Executive Director  
North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP)

Cc: Levy County Board of County Board of County Commissioners  
NFEDP Board of Directors



Tailwinds Development, LLC  
100 Colonial Center Pkwy., Ste. 230  
Lake Mary, FL 32746

9/5/25

City of Chiefland  
214 East Park Avenue  
Chiefland, FL 32626

Re: Infrastructure Grant

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to confirm for you that we fully support the City of Chiefland's application for the above referenced Grant. We look forward to rapidly scaling the investments and moving forward with the development of our project to support the City of Chiefland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James T. Gendreau'.

James T. Gendreau, President  
Tailwinds Development, LLC