



SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Silvia Stubbs	Chair
Lori Maughan	Vice-Chair
Jamie Harvey	Commissioner
Mack McDonald	Administrator

Mack McDonald
San Juan County Manager
117 South Main
Monticello, Utah 84535

February 20, 2025

Rural Development – Cooperative Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW, MS 3226, Room 5801 – South
Washington DC 20250-3226

RE: USDA Rural Business Development Grant Letter of Support

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the USDA Rural Business Development Grant project, which aims to foster economic growth and diversification in San Juan County, Utah. As the County Manager, I recognize the significant economic challenges we face, and I believe this project will be instrumental in addressing them.

The project will boost economic activity by supporting small and emerging businesses, creating job opportunities, and diversifying our economic base. Additionally, it will address food insecurity by establishing vertical farming operations, which will supply fresh produce year-round and generate local jobs.

Additionally, the project will preserve cultural heritage through programs focused on indigenous agriculture, creating a unique market niche for agritourism. Enhanced food distribution networks will improve supply chain efficiency, benefiting small businesses.

Education and workforce development are essential elements that provide training and technical assistance to farmers and young workers, ensuring long-term business viability. Collaboration within the community will align the project with local needs, enhancing its chances of success.

San Juan County, with the highest poverty rate in Utah at 18.8%, qualifies as economically distressed. This project aligns with the grant's purpose of promoting development in high-poverty areas, aiming to reduce poverty and improve economic stability.

I fully support this initiative and urge your favorable consideration. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Silvia Stubbs
Commission Chair