

February 7, 2024

City of Tenino 149 Hodgen Street South Tenino, WA 98589

Re: Municipal Code Amendment TMC108.40.010 and TMC 108.30.125.F Allowance of Livestock Processing Facilities

Dear City of Tenino Planning Commission,

On behalf of the Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC), I am writing to express support for amending municipal codes to allow the building of a USDA meat processing facility at the Southwest Washington Agricultural and Business Innovation Park.

NABC provides farmers with the skills and resources required to profitably and efficiently supply their products to consumers, retailers, wholesalers, food service operators and food manufacturers. Our mission is to improve the economic viability of the agriculture industry throughout the region by providing business resources to new or existing businesses. A frequent obstruction to the economic viability of agriculture in Southwest Washington is the lack of USDA meat processing infrastructure.

I encourage the City of Tenino to make decisions that ensure local farmers have an opportunity to have their meat processed locally. This is more than a win for local producers, it is also a win for our communities to have an opportunity to access a truly local product.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mike Peroni

Michael Peroni Executive Director Northwest Agriculture Business Center <u>www.agbizcenter.org</u> Office: <u>360-336-3727</u> Cell: 360-880-1785