

October 3, 2023

LL.M. Program in Agricultural and Food Law
1045 W. Maple St.
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: The State of Sustainable Meat Processing - What Laws and Policies Make a Difference?:
SARE Research and Education Grant Proposal

To Whom it May Concern:

Our organization, the Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network, which is an Extension program housed at Oregon State University, serves niche meat producers and processors with education and technical assistance so they can build a robust niche meat supply chain. Our network encompasses all 50 states and over 1,800 members. A stable base of profitable and nimble small and mid-sized meat processors are essential to bringing sustainably- and humanely-raised meat and poultry to local and regional markets.

There is a significant need for the research described in this proposal because there are a lot of assumptions about how state level policy and funding programs can impact the niche meat supply chain and meat processors, but there is very little research to support or refute those assumptions. NMPAN is asked all the time by policy makers what they can do to support the sector, but without research all we have is our opinion. This proposed project could help provide some important data points and inform decision makers more accurately.

Our organization commits to participating in and supporting the 2024 application to Southern SARE Research and Education Grant Proposal entitled “The State of Sustainable Meat Processing - What Laws and Policies Make a Difference?: SARE Research and Education Grant Proposal.” We commit to actively participating in this three-year project from April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2027. We will support the project by: serving on an advisory committee as needed and disseminating research results through our website, listserv, and webinar if requested. We believe our significant experience with providing education, technical assistance, and consulting to small and mid-scale meat processors as well as information to policy makers will contribute significantly to this project.

Sincerely,



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