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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:

I am excited to participate in and support "The State of Sustainable Meat Processing - What Laws and Policies Make a Difference?" application to Southern SARE Research and Education Grant Proposal.

I am a strategic consultant specializing in working with agricultural and food businesses. My consultancy provides services in marketing, outreach, communications (including multicultural), community engagement, and content strategy. I obtained a Master of Laws in Agricultural and Food Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law. While at UArk Law, I developed an obsession for the intricacies of laws and policies around meat production, including meat processing. This obsession would eventually lead to publishing an article in the Journal of Food Law & Policy entitled, "Blackowned Beef: Should Black Beef Producers Stake Space in Food Justice?"

I believe there is significant need for research on laws and policies around sustainable meat processing. Even prior to COVID-19 it was quite apparent that meat processing laws were causing a bottleneck in direct sales. The pandemic further illuminated this issue. So assessing the recent COVID-19 policies will be more than valuable to understand what is working and what further changes need to be made to address these issues.

I commit to actively participating in this three-year project from April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2027. I will support the project by providing marketing, outreach, and communications support. I believe that in addition to my experience in marketing, outreach and communications, my experience with working with farmers and agricultural organizations will contribute significantly to this project.

Sincerely,

Shirah Dedman