



February 16, 2021

Re: Project Bone Appetite

To whom it may concern,

Noble County, Indiana invites you to collaborate with us for success as you endeavor to expand and select the next site for your pet treat production. We are no stranger to agriculture and food production. Noble County is home to nearly sixty 1,000-acre farms and these industry producers:

- Kraft Heinz
- Egg Innovations
- Silgan Plastics
- Graphic Packaging

We submit for your consideration a site that received the “Shovel-Ready” Site Designation for the Food and Beverage Industry. This 36.4-acre site in the Kendallville East Industrial Park is adjacent to land for expansion and just 11 miles from I-69. Enclosed are maps that illustrate the location’s proximity to USDA-inspected meat processing facilities and cold storage facilities.

Located in the Crossroads of America, Noble County ranks 4th in the nation for concentration of employment in manufacturing. Our location offers easy access to nearly 20 of the nation’s longest highways, rail access, and an outstanding quality of life that is highlighted by abundant outdoor resources featuring 117 lakes, miles of public trails, and outstanding parks and nature preserves.

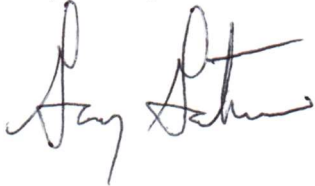
Our communities come together routinely, like few others, to collaborate and succeed as a region. Our long history as a pioneer in workforce development illustrates a commitment to evolving education to fulfill local employers’ needs. Local partners including the Impact Institute, Ivy Tech Community College, and Freedom Academy work closely with the Noble County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and employers to deliver high school technical, adult education, and workforce certification programs. When possible, the EDC invests in the development and delivery of programs as a key strategy to facilitate a talent pipeline.

The EDC’s Investment Trust Fund is unique in the region and a vehicle by which county economic development income tax (CEDIT) is invested, under the purvey of a team of stakeholders and business leaders, in infrastructure and other initiatives that ensure population and industrial growth.

Historically, each of our incorporated communities and the county have also supported growth through the use of tax abatements varying from five to ten years. Abatements are based on job creation, sustainability, and capital investment. In addition, Indiana Michigan (I&M) Power customers benefit from a billing demand credit for qualified new and expanding businesses.

On behalf of our local development partners and leaders, thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if I can answer any questions, provide more detailed information, or help make the connections necessary for you to explore the proposed site further.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Gatman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Gary Gatman
Executive Director

Enc.