



WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

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Robert Pearce
Superintendent

Edward Hand
District I

Melisa Taylor
District II

Cale Langston
District III

Joshua Brown
District IV

Laura Lawhon
District V

October 28, 2024

Quincee Messersmith, Chair
Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners
3093 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

RE: Support for Wakulla County BOCC’s Grant Applications for Project Boomer and Project Safety

Dear Chair, Messersmith,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) grant applications for two projects proposed for Wakulla County. Project Boomer and Project Safety are two construction projects to be in Opportunity Park, which is in the northeastern section of Wakulla County.

Project Boomer will allow for the relocation and expansion of a local manufacturing company, while Project Safety will develop a new manufacturing facility for an existing company based out of South Florida with multiple global locations. The BOCC has submitted grant applications to multiple funding programs in support of these projects with the goal of utilizing several sources to bring these projects to fruition.

The Wakulla County School Board (WCSB) has an A-rated school district and recently received \$20 million in Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. funding to support the modernization and expansion of our Continuing Technical Education (CTE) program. Students obtaining certificates from the CTE in such fields as engineering technology, digital design, and welding can serve as potential future employees to Project Boomer and Project Safety. In turn, this creates a wonderful opportunity for students to gain well-paying employment locally utilizing their valuable skills. In partnership with projects like Projects Boomer and Safety, the WCSB and the BOCC can help in meeting the workforce needs of Wakulla County.

Project Boomer and Project Safety present a valuable opportunity for economic growth in Wakulla County that can benefit our students and the community. As such, I would like to offer my support to the County’s grant applications for these efforts.

Sincerely,

Robert Pearce
Superintendent

Richard Myhre,
Superintendent-Elect

November 26, 2024

J. David Edwards, County Administrator
Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners
3093 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

RE: Support for Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Grant Applications for Project Boomer and Project Safety

Dear Administrator Edwards,

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) grant applications for two projects proposed for Wakulla County. Project Boomer and Project Safety are two construction projects to be located in Opportunity Park, which is within the northeastern section of Wakulla County and is a site which successfully completed the Duke Energy Site Readiness program in 2018. Project Boomer will allow for the relocation and expansion of a local manufacturing company, while Project Safety will develop a new manufacturing facility for an existing company based out of South Florida that has several global locations. The BOCC has submitted applications to multiple grant programs for these projects with the goal of utilizing several funding sources to bring these projects to fruition.

In support of these projects, we understand that the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to purchase land in Opportunity Park, making it public property. The County will then construct facilities that meet the needs of Projects Boomer and Safety and lease them to the companies. This proposed development is part of a larger initiative between the County and its partners to bring development to the Opportunity Park industrial area that will support the economic development needs of Wakulla County.

Project Boomer will have a sizable effect on the Wakulla economy through their retention and expansion plans. It is estimated that their annual impacts to the Wakulla economy will be close to \$80 million in economic output and \$12.8 million in payroll. Impacts from Project Safety are expected to have an even larger impact on the economy. They are projected to provide \$237 million in economic output and \$38 million in payroll. In addition, the hundreds of direct jobs created by the projects are anticipated to result in an additional one hundred and ninety indirect jobs for the community as financial impacts ripple through the economy.

Project Boomer and Project Safety present a valuable opportunity for economic growth in Wakulla County that can benefit the community as a whole. As such, we would like to offer our support to the grant applications for these efforts.

Sincerely,



Marc Hoenstine, CEcD
Managing Director, Economic Development



November 25, 2024

J. David Edwards, County Administrator
Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners
3093 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

RE: Support for Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Grant Applications for Project Boomer and Project Safety

Dear Administrator Edwards,

On behalf of Florida's Great Northwest (FGNW), the 13-county regional economic development organization for the Florida panhandle, I am writing to express my strong support for the grant applications from the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners for two projects proposed for Wakulla County: Project Boomer and Project Safety.

These two manufacturing projects would be extremely meaningful to the community and help diversify the local and regional economies. Project Boomer will have a sizable effect on the Wakulla economy through their retention and expansion plans. It is estimated that their annual impacts on the Wakulla economy will be close to \$80 million in economic output and \$12.8 million in payroll. Impacts from Project Safety are expected to have an even more significant impact on the economy. They are projected to provide \$237 million in economic output and \$38 million in payroll. In addition, the hundreds of direct jobs created by the projects are anticipated to result in an additional 190 indirect jobs for the community as financial impacts ripple through the economy.

Project Boomer and Project Safety present a valuable opportunity for economic growth in Wakulla County and Northwest Florida. We offer our support to you and your team as you move forward with these grant applications. We look forward to working with you to advance these projects and hope they will receive every consideration for funding. If I can further assist, please do not hesitate to contact me at 850.527.0999 or jconoley@fgnw.org.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Conoley, CEcD
President & CEO



PO Box 598, Crawfordville, FL 32326

November 25, 2024

J. David Edwards, County Administrator
Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners
3093 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

RE: Support for Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Grant Applications for Project Boomer and Project Safety

Dear Administrator Edwards,

As the County's public-private economic development organization, the Wakulla Economic Development Council (EDC) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) grant applications for two projects proposed for Wakulla County. Project Boomer and Project Safety are two construction projects to be located in Opportunity Park, which is within the northeastern section of Wakulla County. Project Boomer will allow for the relocation and expansion of a local manufacturing company, while Project Safety will develop a new manufacturing facility for an existing company based out of South Florida that has several global locations. The BOCC, in partnership with the EDC, has submitted applications to multiple grant programs for these projects with the goal of utilizing several funding sources to bring these projects to fruition.

In support of these projects, the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to purchase land in Opportunity Park, making it public property. The County will then construct facilities that meet the needs of Projects Boomer and Safety and lease them to the companies. This proposed development is part of a larger initiative between the County and its partners to bring development to the Opportunity Park industrial area that will support the economic development needs of Wakulla County.

Project Boomer will have a sizable effect on the Wakulla economy through their retention and expansion plans. It is estimated that their annual impacts to the Wakulla economy will be close to \$80 million in economic output and \$12.8 million in payroll. Impacts from Project Safety are expected to have an even larger impact on the economy. They are projected to provide \$237 million in economic output and \$38 million in payroll. In addition, the hundreds of direct jobs created by the projects are anticipated to result in an additional one hundred and ninety indirect jobs for the community as financial impacts ripple through the economy.

Project Boomer and Project Safety present a valuable opportunity for economic growth in Wakulla County that can benefit the community as a whole. We have been working in partnership with the BOCC for over four years to bring new job creation opportunities to Wakulla County and are excited about the prospect of both of these opportunities. We look forward to continuing to work with the County to bring these two projects in for a landing and grow our local economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Shuff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Shuff" clearly distinguishable.

John Shuff, President
Wakulla County Economic Development Council
(850) 567-3989



December 26, 2024

J. David Edwards, County Administrator
Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners
3093 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

RE: Support for Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Grant Applications for Project Boomer and Project Safety

Dear Administrator Edwards,

Opportunity Florida is pleased to provide this letter of support to the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) grant application for two projects, Project Boomer and Project Safety, that are the direct result of tremendous efforts by Wakulla County to grow their local economy and provide additional employment opportunities. Project Safety will develop a new manufacturing facility for an existing company based in South Florida, with global locations. Project Boomer will enable the relocation and expansion of an existing local company. The BOCC has submitted multiple applications through multiple grant programs for these projects and will utilize these funding sources to bring both projects to the county resulting in increased local employment opportunities.

Project Boomer will have an estimated annual impact of close to \$80 million in economic output and \$12.8 million in payroll. Project Safety will have an even larger impact with an estimated \$237 million in economic output and \$38 million in payroll. The projects are estimated to result in 190 indirect jobs which will mean more citizens of the county will have greater opportunities for employment closer to where they live, work, and play.

Finally, as an organization that covers ten rural counties, we are also pleased to support these projects because they clearly reflect the efforts of multiple parties in Wakulla County to work together to bring much-needed economic benefits to the region. The level of cooperation, effort, and dedication by Wakulla County, both locally and regionally, has given them this opportunity. We are thrilled to offer our support for their grant applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Williams
Executive Director

Calhoun • Franklin • Gadsden • Gulf • Holmes • Jackson • Liberty • Wakulla • Washington • North Walton

4636 Highway 90, Suite K, Marianna, FL 32446 + 850-633-4119 + www.opportunityflorida.com

N.G. WADE INVESTMENT COMPANY

569 EDGEWOOD AVENUE, SOUTH / 32205
P.O. BOX 6937
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32236-6937

November 26, 2024

J. David Edwards, County Administrator
Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners
3093 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

RE: Landowner Support for Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Proposal for Project Boomer and Project Safety

Dear Administrator Edwards,

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) grant applications for two projects proposed for Wakulla County. Project Boomer and Project Safety are two construction projects in Opportunity Park, within the northeastern section of Wakulla County. As the owner of Opportunity Park, N.G. Wade Investment Company is excited about both projects and the opportunities they will bring to Wakulla County. We have worked closely with the Wakulla Economic Development Council for over four years, and it is rewarding to see the results of our partnership come to fruition through these two projects.

We support the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners' proposal to purchase land in Opportunity Park and make it public property. The County will then construct facilities that meet the needs of Projects Boomer and Safety and lease them to the companies. This proposed development is part of a larger initiative between the County and its partners to bring development to the Opportunity Park industrial area that will support the economic development needs of Wakulla County. We are proud to play a role in this effort.

Project Boomer and Project Safety present a valuable opportunity for economic growth in Wakulla County that can benefit the community as a whole. N.G. Wade Investment Company looks forward to our continued partnership to grow the economy of Wakulla County.

Sincerely,



Worth McArthur
President