THOMAS A. MUNSON

ACTING JUDGE
BROWN COUNTY, TEXAS

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August 3, 2026

USDA, Rural Development Rural Business-Cooperative Services
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250
Attention: Review Team, Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program, Phase 4

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Brown County Commissioners Court, I would like to express support for Local Cuts Meat Company's investment in their Zephyr, Texas processing facility. Their project will expand much needed processing capacity in the state, resulting in the creation of good paying jobs, and supporting the growth of independent ranchers throughout the state.

Cattle ranching has been the backbone of Brown County for more than 150 years. Facilities like Local Cuts play a critical role in supporting the livelihoods and growth of independent ranchers by affording them the ability to develop premium products and brands, capture more of the retail value of their beef, and sell directly to consumers. Processors like Local Cuts empower ranchers to move beyond selling their cattle as commodities, instead participating in the broader process of beef marketing, branding, and retail sales – creating a strong, diverse, and resilient regional food system that contributes to a local and regional resilience that factory scale processing cannot match.

Local Cuts provides toll processing services to ranchers in Brown County. Their project will increase their Zephyr plant's processing capacity through the addition of new cooling, production, and sanitation equipment; this capacity expansion will reap benefits for our broader community by creating new employment opportunities, increasing toll processing slots for regional ranchers, and creating new premium value-added beef products for their customers and local consumers. Once completed, this investment will meaningfully contribute to the farm-to-table market in Brown County and the continued growth and sustainability of independent ranching operations.

The Brown County Commissioners Court believes this project aligns with Brown County's priorities for rural economic development, agricultural sustainability, and support for small businesses and family ranching operations. We respectfully encourage USDA Rural Development to give this application full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Munson
Acting County Judge

August 3, 2026
(Exhibit #7)