

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE CHAMBER OF GADSDEN & ETOWAH COUNTY, INC.**

WHEREAS, The Chamber of Gadsden & Etowah County, Inc (herein referred to as The Chamber) was initially chartered in 1913 in the State of Alabama as a 501 c (6); and

WHEREAS, the mission of The Chamber is to be a catalyst for economic growth in Etowah County by serving member businesses through advocacy, education and community partnerships; and

WHEREAS, The Chamber supports the establishment of a comprehensive and inclusive county-wide master plan that inventories properties, assets, resources, infrastructure, existing industry and workforce pipeline development opportunities, as well as municipal, county and community input; and

WHEREAS, The Chamber recognizes that comprehensive and inclusive master plans are powerful economic tools that provide for a county-wide vision toward which all economic development efforts within the county can work collectively and individually; and

WHEREAS, The Chamber recognizes the importance of the poultry industry in the State of Alabama and Etowah County, and appreciates the existing poultry industry's contribution to the community, and understands and supports the benefit that a chicken byproduct rendering plant can bring to the State of Alabama and to a low-population community in a low-population density county to which it may increase employment opportunity and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, The Chamber appreciates the efforts of the State of Alabama, the City of Gadsden and the Gadsden-Industrial Development Authority in locating industry in Etowah County as part of their overall mission to recruit high-paying, high-wage employment opportunities to increase the overall quality of life of residents; and

WHEREAS, The Chamber supports the recruitment and retention of a diverse array of commercial, industrial and agricultural business and has actively participated in activities as such for the past 108 years; and

WHEREAS, The Chamber recognizes that a diverse workforce is critical to economic health and vitality, and actively works to support a business-driven pipeline of diverse talent; and

WHEREAS, The Chamber has gathered extensive research regarding a chicken byproduct rendering plant proposed to locate within Etowah County, including feedback from its membership regarding the concerns related to property values of adjacent parcels, environmental permitting, low proportionate job creation of low-wage categories identified by Jobs EQ Occupation Report, and the stated concerns of existing business and industry related to limited co-location of new and unrelated industry and/or expansion of co-located unrelated industry; and

WHEREAS, The Chamber recognizes that the population density of Etowah County does not appear to be congruous with similar projects located throughout the country, as it is the smallest land mass with the highest per capita population county within the state; and

WHEREAS, The Chamber recognizes that responses to the survey provided to the business community has recorded approximately 85% overall and 84% identified as members to be opposed to the proposed rendering plant locating in

Etowah County, and approximately 72% overall and 69% identified as member responses recorded requesting that The Chamber also oppose the proposed project locating in Etowah County for the reasons mentioned above as well as other reasons as expressed by members in said survey; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Chamber believes that a poultry rendering project is not best suited for Etowah County for reasons stated above and desires to communicate the will of its members to publicly oppose the project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Chamber encourages all parties related to and having authority over the project locating in Etowah County report that, upon completing due diligence with the business and industry community, the project is appreciated but not an appropriate fit for Etowah County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Chamber encourages all elected officials and key leadership positions within all levels of government in Etowah County to commit to the completion of a comprehensive and inclusive county-wide master plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Chamber commits to all elected officials and key leadership positions within all levels of government in Etowah County to be of utmost assistance in the administration, financing, deployment, development, contracting and/or any other activities required by which a comprehensive and inclusive county-wide master plan would be completed in any role deemed helpful, including but not limited to leading, supporting, facilitating, or participating.

Approved in Gadsden, Alabama on the 15th day of January 2021.

Board Members Present:

Jonathan Tang, Chairman

Morgan Lavender, Chair Elect

Jeff Allen, Immediate Past Chair

Angela Lipscomb, Treasurer

Barry Allen Cherry

Kendall Lowe Hamilton

Jami Grimes

Tena King

Bethanne Mashburn

Aimee Quizon

Tony Smith (abstained, conflict of interest)

Melissa Whorton