



George County Board of Supervisors
Community Development Office
Ken Flanagan, Director
Office: 601-247-2104
Email: kflanagan@georgecountymiss.gov

Supervisor Larry McDonald's comments on behalf of the George County Board of Supervisors after receiving a vital \$1.4 million EDA grant

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“Governor Bryant and Dr. Fleming it is an honor to have you and your staffs here today in our Board Room.

This EDA Grant is a critical component to Enviva Biomass building its newest and largest wood pellet plant in the George County Industrial Park. This grant is providing the much needed funding to design and build a main trucking entrance to the plant off MS Highway 198.

Without this grant program, it is extremely difficult for a smaller rural county to afford such ambitious road project. This grant gave us the ability to directly compete with larger counties and cities to attach high quality companies... like Enviva.

As Dr. Fleming said; this grant will directly support the creation of 85 full time jobs and hundreds indirect jobs. It's hard to underestimate the value of these full time jobs with benefits to our County and City. But, this grant also directly supports the local and regional timber industry.

The Enviva Lucedale wood pellet plant will be the first new intake for southern pine trees in years. The local timber market is facing almost historic low prices while the timber supply literally grows every day. This grant will provide a safe entrance for truckers to deliver this key crop.

George County could not have gotten this grant without assistance. On behalf of the our Board, I want to thank SMPDD for being our partners throughout this entire application and approval process- Leonard, Allison, Jared, and Lindsay. This is the team which helped us earn this grant.

We are going to use this EDA grant to compliment other State and private grants to make this infrastructure work possible (water mains, wastewater, and an access road). Governor Bryant, we appreciate all the assistance and insight from MDA and your project management team.

Dr. Fleming, the County deeply values your organization's confidence in George County for this project. In short, thank you! We look forward to having your entire team back down very soon for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Thank you everyone.”