

## **Clemson University Statement – October 29, 2025**

Clemson University has not been involved in the proposed 5,200 housing development project in Oconee County. At no point has the University provided funding for, partnered on or endorsed the planning or construction of any residential development related to this proposal. Assertions of Clemson's involvement in the Oconee housing development project are false and misrepresent Clemson's role.

Consistent with its land-grant mission, Clemson University routinely reviews economic development proposals brought forth by community and industry partners. The Newry Project was proposed to the University in November 2023. As is standard practice, an administrative team conducted a preliminary review to assess the multi-use concept's potential economic and community impact. This review included a site visit to Purdue University's Discovery Park with other project representatives from Oconee County and the South Carolina Department of Commerce. After completing its due diligence, the University decided not to pursue the economic development initiative.

We take seriously any attempt to mischaracterize Clemson's actions or intentions. The University is committed to open, fact-based communication and intends to respond directly to the letters received by both the Oconee County Council and Senator Thomas Alexander. Clemson values its longstanding relationship with Oconee County and remains focused on its mission of education, research, public service and statewide economic development.