



February 15, 2010

The Honorable Ben Nelson
440 North 8th Street Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Senator Nelson:

I am pleased to submit this letter supporting the Metropolitan Utilities District's request for an appropriation of \$12 million to assist in the construction of a \$16.5 million new construction/operational center facility. This investment by the Federal Government will have a dramatic positive impact on the economy in greater Omaha.

The Metropolitan Utilities District (the "District") is an active member of the Greater Omaha Chamber and provides natural gas and water service to the Omaha metro area. The District has established a long term plan to replace the aging natural gas and water piping infrastructure in the eastern portion of Omaha, a construction project that will impact 200,000 residents directly and will have a financial impact on 500,000 of the District's customer owners. The aging infrastructure will be replaced at an efficient and cost effective rate, allowing Omaha to maintain some of the lowest and most attractive utility rates in the nation. These low rates are extremely important to us in attracting quality businesses to greater Omaha.

The completion of the second construction/operational facility is critical in insuring continuous service to the District's customers and imperative the District's plan to replace the aging natural gas and water infrastructure. The construction/operational facility will house at least 75 new employees so they can effectively and efficiently begin the rebuilding project. In addition, the District will have adequate space at the original construction/operations center to hire an additional 75 employees, whom will also take part in the rebuilding of the 1,700 miles of natural gas and water mains that must be replaced over the next 30 years.

Senator Nelson, I would ask that you proceed in efforts to obtain federal funding for the new construction center needed by the Metropolitan Utilities District. The positive ramifications for Omaha and the metro area of this project are significant and long lasting. Thank you for your consideration,

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'David G. Brown', written in black ink.

David G. Brown
President and CEO

Cc: Doug Clark