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Kathleen A. Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Ben Nelson
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for the time you shared with Commissioner Chris Rodgers, Commissioner Mary Ann Borgeson, Commissioner Pam Tusa, Commissioner Clare Duda, and Commissioner Marc Kraft during their recent visit to Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

On the heels of their meeting with you, I am writing to formally request your assistance in seeking federal funding for several initiatives that will benefit the citizens of Douglas County. These projects include federal investment for:

- **Phase I of the Douglas County Health Center Renovation Project**

Douglas County Health Center is located in central Omaha and is licensed for 254 long-term care beds and 24 assisted living beds. There are eight long-term care neighborhoods (nursing Units) and one assisted living neighborhood (nursing unit). The long-term care neighborhoods are located on four stories and in four different sections of the building. The long-term care and assisted living neighborhoods are staffed to meet the needs of adult residents who are no longer able to live independently and who either lack support systems or are so compromised that they cannot be cared for in their own home. The West Stack Ward is severely outdated, and in desperate need of renovations. Douglas County seeks federal funding to renovate one floor of this health care facility.

- **Douglas County Data Protection and Cyber Security Initiative.**

The information systems and electronic data used to support the business functions of the City of Omaha and Douglas County are at risk. The data communications network and IT infrastructure currently in place is fragile, relying on obsolete equipment with single points of failure and minimal capabilities to detect and prevent physical and Internet-based attacks. Critical functions of the County including law enforcement, criminal justice, health care, and property tax collection are vulnerable to disruption of public services and loss of data in the event of attacks, large scale disasters or simply

from the mechanical failure of single pieces of critical equipment. Even in the absence of a disaster or equipment failure, sensitive citizen data is exposed to breaches of privacy if unauthorized access is not prevented. Douglas County seeks federal funding to acquire needed equipment for a new data center.

- **Phase I of the Douglas County Public Properties Geothermal Studies**

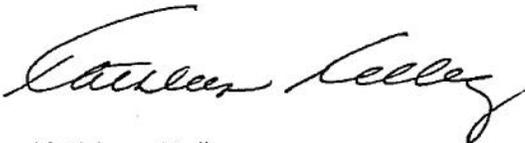
Currently the Douglas County Health Center Campus encompasses approximately 26.5 acres bounded by Pacific Street on the north, 42nd Street on the west, and Woolworth on the south. The Health Center Campus includes six buildings that could potentially benefit from energy savings realized using geothermal technology for heating, cooling and domestic water heating. Geothermal technology is being utilized throughout the Midwest for numerous types of buildings. More building owners are moving toward this system as well as Douglas County. K-12 school buildings in Douglas County have been converted to the geothermal technology. A campus of this size can benefit by implementing the geothermal technology, see great saving benefits, and help protect our environment with utilizing current technology. Douglas County seeks federal funding to study the advisability and feasibility of geothermal technology at this site.

- **Douglas County Juvenile Justice Technology Initiative**

To help reduce capacity, the Douglas County Youth Center developed an alternative to its detention program. This program is known as the H.O.M.E. Program an acronym for Home On Monitoring Equipment. The program started in April of 2001. The dynamics of the program consist of each participant wearing an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet and daily face-to-face visits by a H.O.M.E. program staff member. The youth is required to attend school or an alternative school program. Technology is allowing Douglas County to take a new approach to youth detention. This new approach is proving successful and the County would like to expand its efforts. However, the associated GPS monitoring technology costs are prohibitive. Douglas County seeks federal funding to acquire technology and services to maintain and hopefully expand the program.

Further details on each of these projects in enclosed. Thank you for the time you and your staff have taken to understand each of these initiatives and their potential impact on Douglas County. Please contact me directly at (402) 444-6237 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Kelly
Chief Administrative Officer