



1620 Dodge Street  
Omaha NE 68197  
402.341.0500

February 11, 2010

Senator Benjamin Nelson  
720 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

I am writing this letter to express my support for a federal appropriation for Nebraska Enterprise Fund's expansion of loan programs for small businesses. As the CRA Officer at First National Bank of Omaha, I see a need to expand existing loan programs that can provide the flexibility needed to bring bank and development dollars together for the good of small businesses.

The Nebraska Enterprise Fund has a long, successful history of lending to micro programs in Nebraska and evaluating performance to insure that businesses benefit from services. As a CDFI, NEF has even greater capacity in the future to work directly with various loan sources to make loan capital available to businesses across our state.

It has been my experience that NEF not only works with micro program partners, but also involves the private sector in efforts to provide resources for businesses. Building loan packages that combine public and private dollars to fill gaps for businesses is an excellent use of economic development dollars.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Ed Kentch  
CRA Officer  
First National Bank of Omaha