

February 10, 2010

Senator Ben Nelson  
720 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson,

I am writing in full support of the Center for Rural Affairs' \$300,000 earmark request through the US Small Business Administration for the New Entrepreneurial Initiatives for Rural Nebraska project.

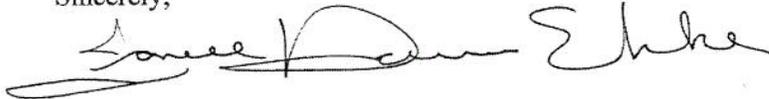
I direct a program called GROW Nebraska. Our program works on a statewide basis and we provide technical assistance, market training, and market access services to entrepreneurs. There is a huge need for additional innovative entrepreneurial services and the New Entrepreneurial Initiative for Rural Nebraska project will help fill a need that is greatly needed.

This new project will create new services supporting small business development in rural Nebraska, through the development and implementation a new interactive web platform for the purpose of providing small business assistance and other key entrepreneurial services. This new project will also assist small communities in developing small business incubators and will additionally assist rural microenterprises in selling goods and services to larger metropolitan businesses.

As we know, our current economy is struggling and many people are starting small businesses due to a lack of employment opportunities and other. New and innovative projects like the New Entrepreneurial Initiative for Rural Nebraska are needed now more than ever. The funding of this new project will pay major dividends for Nebraska's startup and existing entrepreneurs in this great time of need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Janell Anderson Ehrke  
GROW Nebraska Founder/CEO