

February 8, 2010

U.S. Senator Ben Nelson
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

As the global economy continues to demand faster and more efficient transportation of goods and services, it is incumbent upon the residents and leaders of southwest Nebraska and northwest Kansas to be forward looking in providing for the strong infrastructure needed for economic progress and population growth. One area where we believe a proactive investment would yield good returns is the construction of a four lane expressway on U.S. Highway 83 connecting Interstates 70 and 80.

The distance between four-lane north-south routes on I-80 between Kimball and York is the greatest in the Nation: over 300 miles, and Highway 83 serves to bridge that gap. There is heavy truck traffic on Highway 83 already and it is anticipated that much greater demand for such a connection exists with development of the expressway, returning wide ranging economic and social benefits to the nation, the state, and also to the residents of Southwest Nebraska.

It is for this reason that we are requesting your help in securing earmark funding for a corridor location study. The study will assess the costs and benefits of constructing the Highway 83 Expressway. The study is estimated to cost up to \$3 Million; our request is for \$2.4 Million in federal funds.

Your support is appreciated Senator, and if we are successful, the benefits of your leadership will be felt by multiple generations of future Nebraskans.

Sincerely,



Jim Ulrich Jr.
President
McCook Economic Development Corp.



Rex Nelson
Executive Director
McCook Economic Development Corp.