



Heartland Center for Leadership Development

March 15, 2010

Honorable E. Benjamin Nelson
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Regarding: Center for Rural Entrepreneurship Application

Dear Senator Nelson:

I am writing to endorse the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship's application for funding through the Congressional budget request process in support of community Entrepreneur Coaching Projects in Nebraska. We believe the Center's program offers great promise for helping communities provide support for entrepreneurs as a way to create jobs and grow their economies, and we also believe that the Center's approach is among the nation's most innovative.

The Heartland Center for Leadership Development has a long and productive working relationship with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, and our experience indicates that CRE's approach is producing valuable results for rural communities. In these economic times, CRE is plowing new ground to help communities diversify their economies through sustainable, locally driven strategies.

Further, their work has application in rural communities through the Great Plains region and, therefore, an investment in this pioneering work in Nebraska will have relevance for rural communities elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Milan Wall
Co-Director