

O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce

February 9, 2010

Senator Ben Nelson
720 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson,

On behalf of the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to offer our support to the Center for Rural Affairs in regards to their request for a \$300,000 earmark through the US Small Business Administration for the New Entrepreneurial Initiative for Rural Nebraska Project.

As Executive Director of the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce, I meet with numerous entrepreneurs who want to know how to start a business, how to grow their business or just find a source of support that will help them through the rough patches. The development and implementation of a new interactive web site for the purpose of providing small business assistance and other key entrepreneurial services is a positive step in the right direction for small business owners and future entrepreneurs.

This project will enhance economic development for rural communities throughout Nebraska by creating new services supporting small business development. Through the creation of business incubators, entrepreneurs and community members will gain a better understanding of how to nurture and grow their businesses and communities. In addition, the opportunity to further develop rural micro-enterprises in selling goods and services to larger metropolitan businesses is invaluable and will offer the opportunity for significant economic gains for all of Nebraska. It is an exciting opportunity for entrepreneurs to have access to these resources.

Small business owners and entrepreneurs play a significant role in providing the high quality of life we enjoy in rural Nebraska. Due to the current economy, many people are considering entrepreneurial avenues to continue to support their families and maintain a lifestyle they are accustomed but unable to maintain due to recent downsizing. The ideas presented in the New Entrepreneurial Initiative for Rural Nebraska Project are innovative and will provide outreach to entrepreneurs throughout Nebraska. When small businesses are successful, communities are successful.

Please consider the Center for Rural Affairs' request for dollars to provide these much needed services for small business owners and future entrepreneurs in Nebraska.

Sincerely,



Pat Fritz, Exec. Director

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