

Chuck Hassebrook, Executive Director
chuckh@cfra.org; (402) 687-2100
Lyons, Nebraska, population 960

CENTER *for*
RURAL AFFAIRS



February 12, 2010

Senator Ben Nelson
720 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson,

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

The project will create new services supporting small business development in rural Nebraska, including 1) Develop and implement a new interactive web platform to extend our reach and improve our cost effectiveness in delivering technical assistance, training, networking and lending online; 2) Assist small communities in developing small business incubators and 3) Assist rural microenterprises in selling goods and services to larger metropolitan businesses.

This project will employ proven approaches to creating genuine economic opportunity for rural Nebraskans and a future for their communities. But for these approaches to succeed, the federal government must do its part by investing in them to support rural communities – just as the federal government invests in cities. America is strongest when all Americans share in its prosperity and have a stake in its future. This project strengthens American by enabling rural Americans to contribute to and share in the nation's prosperity.

We hope you agree and request your assistance in obtaining funding for this critical project for rural Nebraska. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Chuck Hassebrook