



*March 19, 2010*

*Honorable E. Benjamin Nelson  
United State Senate  
Nebraska*

*Regarding: Congressional Funding Request.*

*Dear Senator Nelson:*

*Please consider this our formal request for Fiscal Year 2011 earmark funds in order to expand the Nebraska Entrepreneur Initiative. We are requesting \$500,000 for expansion of this program which seeks to establish entrepreneur focused economic development strategies in multiple Nebraska communities creating increased job and career opportunities and for residents, job retention and engaging youth in the entrepreneurial experience.*

*Communities across the state are in need of the type of entrepreneur focused economic development this initiative facilitates and our organization is well suited to provide these services as we have been engaged in this type of economic development programming for over a decade. As communities, particularly rural communities, continue to struggle with the issues of out migration, a lower tax base and an economic downturn it is critical to utilize organizations that can provide guidance and help developing a thoughtful strategy for dealing with these challenges.*

*Since the 1990s, our organization has been assisting rural communities in Nebraska and across the Nation build stronger economies by supporting local entrepreneurs. Thank you for your consideration of our request and your on going support for economic development throughout Nebraska.*

*Sincerely,*

*Donald W. Macke*

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