



White River Valley Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 969 Branson, Missouri 65615 (417) 335-9335 Chris Hamon, General Manager

November 4, 2005

Mr. Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Johanns,

How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas? The answer is Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants program.

This program allows us to provide needed capital for projects that normally would not happen in rural communities. Our two most recent applications are in very small communities. With out the 0% interest program these projects will not happen. One project in Sparta, population 1,144, will create 8 new jobs. The other project in Ozark County, population 9,542, will create 50 new jobs and turn around a negative pull factor to a positive pull factor and provide the county residents local trading options. This will also increase sales tax dollars for the county.

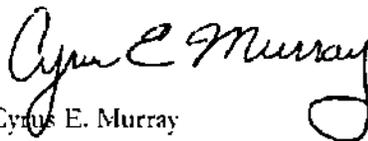
We are also working on a combination of a Loan and Grant for a local hospital. This will allow us to create our own revolving loan fund.

Many of our coop members say they work in agriculture. They are farmers, ranchers or dairymen. However, many have to work a second job to provide healthcare, retirement, educate their children and enhance their farm income. With the continuation of, perhaps adding a few million dollars toward, Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants program, hopefully we can provide more second jobs for our rural citizens.

Mr. Johanns, by providing more dollars this will also keep your USDA employees working. We are very lucky to have Jerry Finley and Leroy Kunkel with their knowledgeable staff's support to provide us guidance on these projects. Nathan Chitwood and now Matt Moore in Columbia have been great assets in helping us put together rural development projects that give us a good opportunity to bring the money into Congressman Blunt's district.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments to you today.

Respectfully yours,


Cyrus E. Murray