



March 3, 2009

Mr. Jack Price
Economic Development Representative
Chicago Regional Office
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
111 N. Canal Street, Suite 855
Chicago, IL 60606

RE: City of Madison Midwest BioLink Grant Application

Dear Mr. Price:

The University of Wisconsin-Madison, as one of the leading research universities in the nation, contributes significantly to the local, regional and state economies. Through the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation and our very successful University Research Park, our faculty has been able to commercialize many of the discoveries that have been made on campus. The MG&E Innovation Center within University Research Park is one example of a successful business incubator where university researchers have nurtured their ideas into a marketable product.

The city of Madison's proposed BioLink facility will help expand the region's business incubation capabilities. BioLink will serve four industry clusters to which the university has great interest: agriculture, biotechnology, food science, and sustainability. It will also provide a type of incubation space currently not found in Madison, with the ability to prototype plant-based technologies in a controlled-environment, greenhouse, and field test plots at a single site.

We believe our faculty and researchers will be able to take advantage of the commercialization space afforded through BioLink. We therefore support the city's application to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, for grant funds to construct and operate BioLink.

Sincerely,

Carolyn "Biddy" Martin
Chancellor

Office of the Chancellor

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