

February 17, 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: Disaster Relief Opportunity – City of Madison BioLink

Dear Mr. Price:

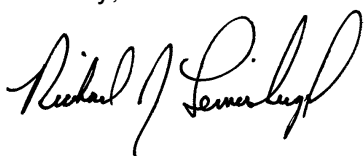
I am writing on behalf of Madison Development Corporation (MDC) to extend the Department of Commerce's support of the Midwest BioLink Commercialization Center (BioLink). Given the current economic climate and the impact of the flooding Wisconsin experienced last year we are seeking creative solutions and partnerships to foster the creation of new jobs for our State residents.

We were therefore excited to learn of the availability of \$81 million of EDA funding through the *Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity*. We are also grateful that your office has initially looked favorably upon using a portion of these funds as a grant to the City of Madison for BioLink.

With a strategic location along the corridor connecting Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, and the Twin Cities, BioLink tenants will be able to connect with rural (agriculture) and urban resources and entrepreneurs statewide. Consequently, the benefits that BioLink brings to Wisconsin will extend beyond the limits of the BioAg Gateway campus.

Our staff has already committed time working with the City of Madison on the scoping and preparation of this application, and we will continue to support the BioLink project and its partner, Madison Development Corporation (MDC) in implementation. We also look forward to the opportunity to work with the City, the BioLink operator (MDC) and future tenants as they continue to grow and eventually graduate out of the facility.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Leinenkugel
Secretary