



State of Wisconsin  
Jim Doyle, Governor

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**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

February 23, 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:

Agriculture has always played a central role in Wisconsin's economy, and Wisconsin has often been at the forefront of agricultural technology. The focus of the BioLink on the intersection of agriculture, food science, and biotechnology present an attractive opportunity to further advance Wisconsin's agricultural economy.

The offices of the State Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) are located adjacent to the BioAg Gateway where the Midwest BioLink Commercialization and Business Center (BioLink) will be located. Our staff has been working with the City of Madison on the BioAg Gateway project for several years. Given our proximity, we look forward to continuing this relationship with the City and with businesses that will call BioLink home.

Wisconsin has recently been faced with both flooding and the challenges of our current national economy. BioLink and the BioAg Gateway are two great examples of how Wisconsin communities are working to overcome these challenges and further future economic opportunity. We support the City's BioLink grant application to the EDA, and are grateful for all of the EDA's work in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Rod Nilsestuen  
Secretary

*Agriculture generates \$51.5 billion for Wisconsin*