

The Chickasaw County Tourism Council

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February 21, 2006

Dianna Engelbrecht
The Chickasaw County Tourism Council
P.O. Box 375
Fredericksburg, IA 50630

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington D.C 20510-1501

Dear Senator Grassley,

This packet is a request for financial support for an Economic Development Initiative special project to be initiated in Chickasaw County. It is my pleasure to present to you the enclosed information regarding the Northeast Iowa Rural Regional Economic Development Initiative (NE Iowa's RREDI). Over the last several years we have been working very hard to revitalize our county's and region's economy and have experienced tremendous success. Recently we have discovered an innovative approach that we believe will further catalyze our efforts. We are looking to collaborate with a private company, AdventGX, Inc. of College Station, TX which is a provider of executive information and performance support systems for community and economic development initiatives with emphasis on tourism.

One of AdventGX's founders, Dr. Andrew Skadberg, is an Iowa native. Andrew grew up in Ames and has two degrees from Iowa State, and he is passionate about helping Iowans realize the tremendous opportunities for rural communities and business throughout the state. AdventGX is a spin-off from Texas A&M University currently serving governments, communities, landowners and small business owners seeking to diversify their businesses. Their flagship EDI project, called Project 7 (www.Project7.org) is underway in Van Horn, Texas. The project now extends to all of West Texas and has experienced considerable success in just one year.

Included in this EDI package are supporting references from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines that highlight the tremendous potential for rural regions to flourish. Our friends at AdventGX and the Sustainable Tourism & Environment Program at UNI believe that the innovation and progressiveness of Chickasaw County, our regional tourism development efforts, and this NE Iowa's RREDI project will position us as a leader in the nation.

Sir, it would be our honor to jointly pursue a rural development project in the Great State of Iowa, specifically starting in here in our wonderful Chickasaw County. I do hope you will contact me should you have any questions or desire additional information. You may reach me directly by phone at 563-237-5969 or by email at dengelbrecht@direcway.com.

Very Best Regards,

Dianna Engelbrecht
Designated Board Representative