

W. J. B. I.

November \_\_, 2005

Mr. Mark Simmons, Statewide Director  
USDA Rural Development  
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 801  
Portland, OR 97232-1274

Dear Mr. Simmons,

The Lane County Board of Commissioners is pleased to endorse the Lane Council of Governments' application to USDA Rural Development for a \$500,000 Intermediary Relending Program loan. This will be a valuable economic development project leading to direct job creation throughout Lane County's small communities. The IRP program has been very successful in Lane County and this new loan will help to replenish the revolving loan fund.

The Lane County business development loan programs have strong support from the business community as well as from local governments throughout Lane County. These business loans provide a direct and efficient method of stimulating economic development in rural communities. The IRP program is one of the best tools to promote job creation and provide diversification of employment in the rural communities that are still struggling to recover from timber job losses over the last two decades.

LCOG has a proven track record of managing rural loan programs. The gap financing which LCOG can provide is often critical to small business expansion and retention projects in Lane County.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners urges you to give this request full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Morrison, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners