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United States Senate

April 12, 2013

Robert E. Olson, Regional Director
Economic Development Administration
410 17th Street, Suite 250
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Olson,

I write in support of the grant application to the Economic Development Administration to fund a feasibility study examining the expansion of meat processing in the state of Montana. If such a study were conducted, and it showed that the construction of a meat processing plant in the state was feasible, it could lead to significant economic gains for the state.

A meat processing plant could not only benefit ranchers who raise beef, lamb, and bison, it could also create new jobs and increase awareness of the Montana brand. Additionally, it could be an important source of local meat products that the consumer could confidently purchase knowing the meat's origins.

Agriculture plays a vital role in Montana's economy. If found to be feasible, projects like this one would strengthen agriculture and ensure its continued role in my state's future.

Thank you for your attention to this application. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also appreciate you informing my office of the eventual decision on this application.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator

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