



February 26, 2010

Senator Richard Lugar
Office of Senator Lugar
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lugar,

The purpose of this letter is to make an appropriations request of \$2,000,000 from the 2011 session of Congress. We have discussed this project with Larry Ordner and Andrew Mills of your staff.

River Valley Resources, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is leading an effort to develop a multi-tenant nonprofit center to serve as a one-stop service center in Jefferson County. This facility will co-locate charity, non-profit and faith-based services (including food distribution) to more efficiently and effectively assist southeastern Indiana families in need. The appropriations request, if granted, would make this widely supported project a reality for southeastern Indiana residents in need.

The Clearinghouse will create administrative efficiencies and enhance coordination of services through co-located capacities, including: permanent and rotating office space for nonprofit charitable service providers; training classrooms; computer lab; a 4,800 square foot food pantry; and an information resource and referral center. The facility would likely serve up to a dozen southeastern Indiana counties.

River Valley Resources is creating funding requests to: the Office of Community & Rural Affairs (OCRA) for a CDBG Block Grant of \$500,000; and USDA Rural Development for a grant of \$200,000 - \$300,000. The OCRA grant requires a 12% non-federal cash match. River Valley Resources raised \$70,000 from local business/industries for this purpose. River Valley Resources is also in discussions with program officers from the Lilly Endowment, Ogle Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation and Kresge Foundation. The Ogle Foundation has invited RVR to submit a letter of inquiry; the Kresge Foundation has invited RVR to submit a pre-proposal requesting \$500,000 by March 5.

On behalf of the Clearinghouse Project, we appreciate your support of this request .

Sincerely,

Margo Olson

Margo Olson

VP/Deputy Executive Director