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Dear Ag Committee Chairman and Minority Leads:

This document serves as our correspondence to the Committee in regards to the language in the 2011 Agriculture omnibus bill. We greatly appreciate your support for the Center for Rural Policy and Development and we look forward to working with you in the future. The Center is excited to receive funding from your committee for our organization and we want to outline our planned work for this next fiscal year.

**Center for Rural Policy and Development - FY12 projects**

This is a list of the projects that we have developed with the help of over 1,000 Minnesotans. We have engaged people from all over the state to help us identify what is important to them, and what they see as areas of needed improvement to advance the life of rural Minnesotans.

- "Assessment of Minnesota Producers' Continuing Educational Needs and Delivery Preferences": a multi-year project in partnership with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system to assess the continuing education needs of Minnesota's ag producers and their preferences for receiving further education. Projected finish date: Summer 2012.
- 2012 Minnesota Internet Survey: Continuation of the Center's 12-year longitudinal study of computer, Internet and broadband access and preferences among Rural Minnesota households. Projected finish date: July 2012.
- Economic Impact Analysis of Minnesota's independent telephone companies: This project being conducted in partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension is looking at the economic impact of the state's independent telephone companies on their regions and the state. Projected finish date: Feb. 2012.
- Rural Minnesota Journal 2012, "Who lives in Rural MN?" released Oct. 2012.\* Distributed statewide.

- The Impact of Regulation on the Competitiveness of Minnesota Businesses: Conducted in partnership with Minnesota State University Mankato, this project surveys businesses in Rural Minnesota to assess the impact of state and local government regulations on businesses in Minnesota, examining businesses by size, location, and industry type. Impact is addressed in terms of “financial burden,” “compliance burden,” and “administrative burden.” The report of the survey includes recommendations for benchmarks to monitor future regulatory impacts. Projected finish date: Oct. 2012.
- Best Practices in Emergency Medical Services Delivery: This study will collect and discuss best practices in the delivery of emergency medical service delivery in rural communities. Projected finish date: Summer 2012.
- Atlas of Minnesota Online: This online atlas presents data on Minnesota counties and school districts on various socio-economic and demographic topics through approximately 100 maps.\* Updated yearly.
- Rural Minnesota Radio: A weekly program produced with Minnesota State Mankato discussing topics of interest to rural listeners and distributed to approximately a 15 radio stations around the state.

Again, we appreciate your support and we look forward to discussing our work with you more in the near future. If you have any questions, comments or thoughts please don't hesitate to contact me!

Thanks!



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