



State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

December 1, 2009

Board of Directors
Southwest Wisconsin Community Action Program, Inc.
149 N. Iowa Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Dear SWCAP Board,

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection strongly supports Driftless Foods and the Iowa County Economic Development Corporation in their efforts to create a vegetable processing and freezing facility.

A facility such as this will help meet the growing consumer demand for locally grown foods, a demand that is increasingly important to the vitality of Wisconsin agriculture.

I firmly believe that Wisconsin's future is tied to the success of our agricultural sector, and the success of that sector depends on innovation and diversity. We need to keep farmland in farming and farm families on their farms. This project can help us do both. It also creates new job opportunities in your region and opens new economic development possibilities.

I can also see in this project the opportunity to create a model for processing locally grown foods that other communities can follow. This model promises to celebrate local foods, be profitable, and return value directly to producers, the communities they live in, and the regions that support them.

Thank you for any support you can provide to Driftless Foods and the Iowa County Economic Development Corporation in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Rod Nilsestuen
Secretary

Agriculture generates \$59 billion for Wisconsin

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