NORTH IOWA Corridor
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

3/24/25

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Subject: Support for the BDO Zone Initiative

Dear Secretary Rollins,

I am writing to express the strong support of the North Iowa Corridor EDC for the Biofuel Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone Initiative. We have seen firsthand the impact it can make for a rural community like ours, and believe it can play a key role in revitalizing rural America, creating jobs, and advancing domestic biofuel production.

The North Iowa Corridor supports business and industry expansion projects in Mason City, Clear Lake, and Greater Cerro Gordo County to promote job growth and private investment for our region. We had the opportunity to complete the BDO Zone rating process in 2024 and immediately began receiving inquiries from projects in the biofuel and biotech industries.

The press release announcing our rating went out in mid-December, and we have already spoken with 5 potential projects in the 3 months since then and have continued conversations with each. As the first BDO Zone in Iowa, we have also received increased awareness with our state Economic Development office as a primary location to direct potential projects. The 5 initial projects represent the potential for well over a billion dollars in project investment, and the projects range between 50-200 jobs each at wages well above our county median wage.

The North Iowa Corridor has experienced directly the effectiveness of the BDO Zone criteria as a key factor for developers in selecting locations for new facilities. BDO Zone rated communities will have a definitive advantage in being favorably viewed for significant future investment as we continue to build the nations' bioeconomy. We strongly endorse the BDO Zone Initiative and encourage the USDA to prioritize the designation of BDO Zones across the US to accelerate American energy independence and rural economic growth.

Sincerely,

Chad Schreck
President & CEO
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