TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER

March 11, 2009

Mr. Pedro Garza, Regional Director
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
504 Lavaca Street, Suite 1100
Austin, Texas 78701-2858

RE: City of Schulenburg funding proposal

Dear Mr. Garza:

I would like to express my support for the City of Schulenburg's request for financial assistance to expand their wastewater treatment plant to enable a local business, Dairy Farmers of America, to build an expansion totaling $35,000,000. The project would also create 120 new jobs.

Local officials in Schulenburg have worked diligently to meet the needs of the company, and they are adding $1.5 to 2 million of local incentives. City officials will also pursue utilization the Texas Capital Fund, an infrastructure grant program for rural Texas communities offered through the Texas Department of Agriculture. We will evaluate that application based on its relative score to competing applicants.

New job creation is vital to rural communities. During these challenging economic times, it is important that rural communities provide strong local support for job creation projects and pursue state and federal programs. City of Schulenburg officials have done an excellent job of working to pursue these partnerships to help facilitate Dairy Farmers of America's expansion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and your support of rural communities.

Sincerely yours,

Todd Staples

Todd Staples

TS/RR/cnr

P.O. Box 12847 Austin, Texas 78711 (512) 463-7476 Fax: (888) 223-8861
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www.tda.state.tx.us