TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER

April 20, 2009

Ms. Penny Redington
Executive Director
Texas Association of Regional Councils
701 Brazos
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Redington:

Thank you for your assistance in our efforts to keep community leaders in Texas fully informed of the unique opportunities that might be available for financial assistance through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

As you know, a meeting is scheduled in Austin on May 7th to provide updates on stimulus funding opportunities. This will be an excellent occasion for councils of governments from across Texas to receive the latest ARRA information. A team of highly qualified speakers has been enlisted to ensure the gathering is informative and productive. In addition to the Texas Department of Agriculture, representatives from United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Rural Community Affairs, Texas Secretary of State, Texas Workforce Commission, to name a few, will be in attendance. Speakers will be available for one-on-one visits following their presentations. I hope each council of governments in Texas will be represented at this important meeting.

Rick Rhodes, Assistant Commissioner for Rural Economic Development, will continue to provide you information about this event as it becomes available. The Texas Department of Agriculture looks forward to partnering with you as we address these unique, challenging economic conditions together.

Sincerely yours,

Todd

Todd Staples

TS/RR/cnr

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