



THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

20250-0100

August 31, 2006

David Rouzer
Associate Administrator
Rural Business-Cooperative Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear David:

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to you for all of your exemplary efforts on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

As Associate Administrator with the Rural Business-Cooperative Service and in previous capacities, you have been a great asset to USDA. You have conducted your work in a superior manner that reflects not only strong leadership, outstanding initiative, and sound judgment but also the highest ideals of duty and service.

I also want to thank you for your continued support of President George W. Bush and your steadfast commitment to the well-being of rural America. Your dedication is reflected in the countless contributions you have made to the quality of life of farmers, ranchers, and their families and communities throughout our Nation. Rural America is better and stronger because of your efforts, and you will be greatly missed.

Thank you again, David, for your exceptional service, and please accept my very best wishes for continued success in all of your endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johanns".

Mike Johanns