

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 25, 1994

Red dot

APR 26 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL RASCO
ROBERT RUBIN
JACK QUINN

FROM:

SHERYLL CASHIN
PAUL WEINSTEIN
KUMIKI GIBSON

SUBJECT: DRAFT MEMO TO POTUS (ATTACHED)

Sent Red dot
to Paul Weinstein
on 4/27/94 a.m.

(PR)

(Logged in
Correspondence Book)

Attached is a draft memorandum to the President, which was discussed at the meeting last Thursday. Please review it as soon as possible and send any suggested changes to Sheryll.

We will send the final draft to you for review before taking any further action. In particular, do we want the POTUS to actually approve of the process or just notify him of it?

Also attached is a revised version of the designation memorandum.

Looks great!

DRAFT

April 25, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

**FROM: CAROL RASCO
ROBERT RUBIN
JACK QUINN**

**SUBJECT: EMPOWERMENT ZONES/ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES
DESIGNATION PROCESS**

I. ACTION-FORCING EVENT

The Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) application process began on January 17, 1994 and the deadline for submission is June 30, 1994, at which time the selection process will begin. In September, 1993 by Presidential Memorandum you created the Community Enterprise Board ("Board"), and required the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Agriculture (USDA) to consult with the Board on the EZ/EC designations. We have developed a process for implementing this interagency consultation and are submitting it to you now for your review.

II. BACKGROUND

The Board is comprised of 15 federal agencies, is chaired by the Vice President, and is co-chaired by Carol Rasco and Bob Rubin. At the first meeting of the Board, on February 2, 1994, the Vice President charged the staff with developing an interagency designation process. Attached is a draft memorandum outlining the process and related issues. It was developed in consultation with HUD, USDA and HHS (because of HHS' role in administering the social services funds that were passed in the EZ/EC legislation). It has not yet been shared with the Board.

Thus far, over 650 communities across the country have informed HUD and USDA that they intend to apply for an EZ/EC designation. There will be 9 EZ and 95 EC designations. Many communities have begun to request meetings with White House staff to discuss their applications. We have asked White House Counsel to provide us with guidance on appropriate procedures for such contacts. Whatever designation process we ultimately adopt, we must ensure that it is followed to the letter.

III. PROPOSAL

HUD and USDA would prescreen all applications to identify a manageable number, approximately 200, of "most viable" applications that would then be evaluated by the agencies represented on the Board. The pre-screening would be based on the eligibility and selection criteria articulated in the EZ/EC application materials and any additional criteria developed by HUD and USDA. The agencies would evaluate the "most viable" class using an evaluation form developed by HUD and USDA. After considering the agencies' evaluations, HUD and USDA would select approximately 20 to 30 urban and rural first round "finalists" to be presented to the Board. The Board would then meet to make recommendations as to which of the the first round of finalists should be designated as EZs. After considering the Board's recommendations, HUD and USDA would make the final decision on the EZ designations (as is required by statute). The remaining first round finalists would receive EC designations and a second round of finalists would be considered under the same process for the remaining EC slots. We hope to complete the process by mid-September and the actual announcements of the EZ/EC designations could be made at any time thereafter.

The proposal has the following advantages:

- Input from the Board: It ensures that each agency on the Board has an adequate opportunity to evaluate and consider (1) the submitted strategic plans; (2) program usages and strategies contained in EZ/EC applications that are within the agency's jurisdiction; and (3) waiver requests within the agency's jurisdiction. This will help ensure that each community receiving an EZ/EC designation will have a viable package of federal resources and waiver approvals. In addition, there will be review and input by the DPC, NEC, OVP, CEA and OMB, which are represented on the Board.
- Objective standards to ensure the longterm success of the program: In order to win, an application must meet baseline eligibility criteria and selection standards that reflect indicia of success. In January, Nicholas Lehman published a cover story in the New York Times Magazine pronouncing Empowerment Zones a failure before the program had even begun. The initiative is going to draw close scrutiny from the press and comparisons to Model Cities are inevitable. If the initiative is not perceived as a success in the longterm, it will limit the ability of this and future Administrations to marshal additional resources for distressed urban and rural communities. Success stories in community development show that it will be critical to select applicants that have true community participation; the commitment of resources from state, local and private sources; the know-how to be successful; and an implementation team that is committed to following through with the strategic vision.
- Some Discretion: While imposing objective standards, the proposal will allow for consideration of additional factors, like geographic diversity. With the EZ designations, for example, the Board will be presented with 20 to 30 applications from which to recommend nine EZs.

- **Fairness:** The proposal ensures a fair process that should limit to a great degree inevitable charges of political favoritism. As with other competitive grant programs, any records that are produced by this process will be subject to inspection by the General Accounting Office, relevant Congressional committees, and, possibly, the general public. In addition, applicants that do not win will demand reasons. The proposal will result in documentation that shows that all winners met objective selection criteria.

The major disadvantage of this process is that it limits discretion. It is designed to award empowerment zones to communities that have excellent, innovative strategic plans. With only nine empowerment zones to designate, there will be considerable pressure, particularly as our legislative priorities come to a vote and the fall elections approach, to weigh other factors.

IV. DECISION

We wanted you to be aware of this proposed process and receive any comments you may have before moving forward.

_____ Approve of Process

_____ Discuss Further

DRAFT 4/26/94

DRAFT

April 26, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE BOARD

FROM:

SUBJECT: DRAFT FOR EZ/EC DESIGNATION PROCESS

At the first meeting of the Community Enterprise Board (Board), the staff was asked to make recommendations as to how the Empowerment Zones (EZ) and Enterprise Communities (EC) designation process should be structured to ensure an efficient process that enables all agencies represented on the Board to have adequate input. This memorandum sets forth a suggested framework for such a process.

I. ISSUES REGARDING DESIGNATION PROCESS

The following issues were raised by Board members and staff regarding the designation process:

- **Inclusion of all agencies.** The September 30, 1993 Presidential Memorandum that created the Board requires HUD and USDA to consult with the Board regarding the EZ/EC designations. All the Board members agree that we need to create a process that ensures that each agency represented on the Board has an adequate opportunity to evaluate and consider (1) the submitted strategic plans; (2) program usages and strategies contained in EZ/EC applications that are within the agency's jurisdiction; and (3) waiver requests within the agency's jurisdiction.
- **Input from and negotiation with applicants.** Some Board members have recommended that we give each EZ/EC applicant an opportunity for a face-to-face encounter with the Board or the Designating Secretaries so that applicants feel they have had a full and fair opportunity to present their plan. Some Board members have suggested that we have public site visits during the application or designation process. Others have expressed concerns that such public encounters may create political difficulties. All agree that we will need to consult with finalists on necessary adjustments to their strategic plans.
- **Maintaining Objectivity and Discretion.** All of the Board members agree that we need a process that ensures that all finalists meet the objective criteria set forth in the application while allowing some degree of discretion for other considerations, such as geographic diversity.
- **Timing.** In order to be able to demonstrate some early success, we need an efficient process that allows us to begin to designate a substantial number of EZs/ECs by

September, 1994 (although we may decide to defer all or many of the designations until a later date).

- **Input from Outside Experts.** Some Board members have suggested that we consider using a panel of outside experts to help screen applications and inject more objectivity into the process.
- **Interagency Review and Staffing.** To ensure consistency and high-quality review, some have suggested an interagency orientation team to provide initial guidance to agency reviewers about the goals of the initiative. Each agency will also be required to devote or detail adequate staff to the review process. (In the EZ/EC Application, we commit to considering the waiver requests of all applicants, whether or not the applicant is designated.) We also need to have as much certainty as possible about agency decisions regarding individual program and waiver requests prior to making a final EZ/EC designation.
- **Technical Assistance.** Some Board members have also suggested that we try to arrange for foundations and other non-governmental organizations to provide technical assistance to EZ/EC applicants. Questions have also been raised regarding the extent of technical assistance that ought to be provided by HUD, USDA and other agencies during the application process.
- **Post-Designation Implementation.** Some members have suggested that we should have interagency implementation teams and/or a coordinating mechanism at the regional level, like the State Rural Development Councils, that would help the designated communities follow-through with implementation and provide the local coordination necessary to help communities realize their strategic vision. One foundation has suggested that designated communities be required to go through an additional 3-4 month planning period to ensure appropriate implementation.
- **Evaluation.** Finally, some members have suggested that a third-party evaluator be selected to conduct a thorough evaluation of the EZ/EC initiative.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Prescreening for "Most Viable" Applications. Based on the level of interest to date, we expect to receive at least 650 and perhaps as many as 800 applications for the 104 EZ/EC slots. Because of this volume, we believe the only realistic approach to interagency consultation is to have HUD and USDA pre-screen the applications and present a manageable number of "most viable" applications to the agency staff and then to the Board for review.

We recommend the following general approach. HUD and USDA would develop their own procedure to screen for a target class -- say 200 -- of the "most viable" applications.

While HUD and USDA may not use identical screening criteria, they will coordinate with each other to ensure consistency in criteria and process. HHS would screen all applications for compliance with Title XX requirements.

All other agencies willing to invest the time would certainly be allowed to review all of the submitted applications and make recommendations to HUD and USDA about which applications should be placed in the "most viable" class. (HUD and USDA would make the documents available for review at their respective buildings.)

B. Screening for Finalists. HUD and USDA will also develop a process for winnowing the "most viable" class to a first round of approximately 20 to 30 urban and rural "finalists," all of which will have been adjudged, based upon their strategic plans, to be qualified to receive either an EZ or EC designation.

The winnowing process will require each agency to review all applications in the "most viable" class. Each agency must designate a team of reviewers for this purpose, and HUD and USDA will coordinate the orientation of all agency reviewers.

To enable in-depth review by the agencies, HUD and USDA will develop a form or process by which agency reviewers will record their evaluations of each application. The form or process will allow for each agency to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each application; provide a technical rating; and submit a narrative description of any concerns any agency may have with the plan, waiver requests or other program proposals.

This process would specifically require each agency to give, to the extent permissible, a preliminary indication as to whether the agency would grant, deny or amend the applicant's proposed uses of agency-administered funds (i.e., proposed uses of programs listed in the menu of federal programs). At an appropriate point to be determined by HUD and USDA, a decision on waiver requests would also be required. (See part E on waiver approvals, below.)

C. Presenting Finalists to the Board. Based upon the agencies' input and their own judgment, HUD and USDA would select approximately 20-30 first round finalists, from which the nine EZs would be selected and the remainder would be designated ECs.

HUD and USDA would then present these first round finalists to agency staff, along with any significant changes that might be needed in an applicant's strategic plan. The agency staff would then offer responses. HUD and USDA would then present the finalists to the Board. The Board would then meet to make recommendations as to which of the first round finalists should be designated as EZs. After considering the Board's recommendations, HUD and USDA would make the final decision on the EZ designations (as is required by statute). Again, the remaining first round finalists would receive EC designations.

The process of screening the "most viable" class for finalists would be repeated for a

second round, resulting in the finalists for the remaining EC designations. The second round of finalists would also be presented to the Board for consultation. Our goal would be to have the selection process completed by the end of the fall, although this goal would not necessarily be stated publicly.

D. Consultations with Applicants and Outside Review. If necessary, HUD and USDA and other funding agencies may conduct discussions with "finalists" to clarify any open issues and discuss any needed adjustments and performance agreements, particularly regarding total population requirements, proposed program uses or waivers. HUD and USDA will coordinate all discussions and, prior to such meetings, will consult with other agencies to confirm what program funds each agency is able to grant (or is inclined to grant) in support of the finalist's strategic plan. These consultations should also address specifics of any adjustments agencies would need in order to meet an applicant's program request, to the extent that these agencies can provide such information.

Given the number of expected applicants, we do not believe there will be sufficient time to conduct public hearings or site visits prior to designation. We also doubt that there will be sufficient time to allow outside experts to review the applications. In any event, such outside reviews raise legal and other concerns. The consultations discussed above, however, should provide agency officials with the opportunity to clarify any concerns they have about an application and to obtain an accurate assessment of a strategic plan.

E. Waiver Approvals. Except in extraordinary circumstances, all waiver requests made by applicants regarding program regulations should be decided upon prior to any EZ or EC designation. As HUD and USDA screen for finalists, they will submit program waiver requests to the relevant individual agencies. Agencies will be expected to respond within ten days of receiving such requests with a decision or a statement of extraordinary circumstances as to why a decision cannot be made at that time. (This provision does not apply to applications to conduct demonstrations with eligibility and benefit provisions of the Social Security Act.)

We believe that the process for approving waiver requests of applicants that are not selected for EZ/EC designations should be deferred until after the EZ/EC designations are completed. Applicants should be told that we will begin the process of "working with" communities on their waiver strategies after the EZ/EC designations are announced. The inter-agency EZ/EC Working Group will develop a process for responding to this remaining "third round" of applications and present it to the Board for review later this spring.

F. Designation Announcements. Decisions regarding the timing of announcing the EZ/EC designations should be made independent of this proposed selection process. In other words, although the process would be designed to select the top-rated applications first, this does not necessarily mean that these designations should be announced in this order.

We would expect, however, that at the time an individual designation is announced, the announcement would include substantial specifics about what agency program commitments are being made to the designated community -- e.g., SBA One Stop Capital Shop, Fannie Mae partnership investments, Commerce National Information Infrastructure Grant, DOL One Stop Career Center, etc. This will be especially important for the ECs, in order to debunk contentions that the ECs are not valuable.

G. Technical Assistance. The agency staffs are in agreement that all agencies should do everything possible to respond to requests for information and assistance from applicants. HUD, USDA, and Justice are now part of the Community Empowerment Internet, which will allow applicants to submit queries by computer and to access basic "Q&A" and other information about the EZ/EC process. HUD and USDA are developing a master list of agency contacts to distribute to applicants and a list of outside entities, particularly foundations, that have committed to provide resources and technical assistance to EZ/EC applicants. In addition, HUD and USDA have agreed to make the list of applicants (who have filed a notice of intent) available to foundations, other organizations and all the Board Members in order to facilitate technical assistance to applicants. Fannie Mae, for example, is conducting eight intensive technical assistance workshops around the country to provide EZ/EC applicants explicit instruction on how to enter into partnerships modeled on their HouseOakland initiative.

H. Post-Designation Implementation. HUD has committed to devote one full-time field staff person for each urban EZ and one full-time staff person for every three urban ECs. USDA will also be devoting field staff to the initiative. These field staff will work on a day-to-day basis with their designated communities to ensure speedy implementation of the strategic plan and quick federal response to any problems or issues that arise.

Upon designating an EZ or EC, we would like each agency on the Board to identify a key contact person in the relevant field office who will be committed to working as part of a local, interagency implementation team that will meet regularly with the designated community to assist in implementation and problem solving. To ensure that the Board provides a rapid, coordinated federal response to local problems for designated EZs and ECs, we would like each EZ and EC to have an "ombudsman" at the federal level and would like each agency to take on the ombudsman role for one EZ and a number of ECs. Acting as the ombudsman for its assigned EZ and ECs, each agency would be knowledgeable about their designated communities' strategic plan and would help to solve any federal-level problems their designated communities face. The Community Enterprise Board would meet regularly at the ombudsman level to facilitate cross-agency coordination and cooperation for all communities.

We would like each cabinet secretary to be personally involved in seeing to it that his or her agency is fulfilling its ombudsman role. Each cabinet secretary would be responsible for ensuring regular site visits from Washington officials and regular contact with the local

interagency implementation teams for the communities for which their agencies are serving as ombudsman. These are initial ideas on post-designation. We welcome additional suggestions.

I. Evaluation. The Departments of HUD and USDA will contract with a third-party evaluator to assess key aspects of the empowerment zone program. In particular, the contractor will review key elements of empowerment zone and enterprise community strategic plans to identify elements that have worked and could be replicable in other communities across the nation. The evaluator will also examine the implementation of strategic plans to identify methods that have been particularly successful and could serve as models for future efforts. At this juncture, no decisions have been made as to the precise design of the evaluation or who the evaluator will be. We welcome your input and suggestions. HUD and USDA will present more detailed plans regarding evaluation at a later date, at which time all Board members will have an opportunity to comment.

III. CONCLUSION

Because the Board is comprised of 15 agencies and departments, any form of collaboration is going to be labor- and time-intensive. We believe that the above-described framework strikes a good balance that will allow agencies to have full input into the process without overly taxing their resources. If this general framework is acceptable to the Board, HUD and USDA will proceed with developing the details of the process.

URBAN EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES DESIGNATED

EMPOWERMENT ZONE DESIGNEES

Atlanta, Georgia
Chicago, Illinois
Baltimore, Maryland
Counties of New York and Bronx, New York
Detroit and Wayne County, Michigan
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Camden, New Jersey (Bi-state designation)



SUPPLEMENTAL EMPOWERMENT ZONE DESIGNEES

Los Angeles, City and County, and Cities of Vernon, Lynwood, California
Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, Ohio

ENHANCED ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY DESIGNEES

Oakland, San Leandro, and Alameda, California
Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas
Boston, Massachusetts
Houston, Texas

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY DESIGNEES

Birmingham, Alabama
Little Rock and Pulaski County, Arkansas
Phoenix, Arizona
Los Angeles, City and County, and City of Huntington Park, California
San Francisco, Bayview, Hunterspoint, California
San Diego, California
Denver, City and County, Colorado
Bridgeport, Connecticut
New Haven and Hamden, Connecticut
Washington, District of Columbia
Wilmington and County of New Castle, Delaware
Tampa, Florida
County of Dade, Cities of Miami, Homestead, Florida City, Florida
Albany, Georgia
East St. Louis, Illinois
Springfield, Illinois
Indianapolis, Indiana
Des Moines, Iowa
Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky
New Orleans, Louisiana
Ouachita Parish, Louisiana
Lowell, Massachusetts
Springfield, Massachusetts

Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Designated, cont'd.

Enterprise Community Designees, cont'd.

Flint, Michigan
Muskegon, Michigan
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Saint Paul, Minnesota
Jackson, Mississippi
St. Louis City, Wellston, St. Louis County, Missouri
Omaha, Nebraska
Manchester, New Hampshire
Newark and Elizabeth, New Jersey
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Clark County and Las Vegas, Nevada
Albany, Schenectady, Troy, New York
Buffalo, New York
Newburgh, New York
Rochester, New York
Charlotte, North Carolina
Akron, Ohio
Columbus, Ohio
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Portland and Multnomah County, Oregon
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Providence, Rhode Island
Charleston, South Carolina
Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee
Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee
Dallas, Texas
El Paso, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
Waco, Bellmead, Lacy-Lakeview Cities and McLennan County, Texas
Ogden City, Utah
Norfolk, Virginia
Burlington, Vermont
Seattle, Washington
Tacoma, Washington
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Huntington, West Virginia

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 31, 1994

J. Howard P. Black
CIGNA Financial Advisors
3200 Bailey Lane
Suite 114
Naples, FL 33942

Dear Mr. Black:

Thank you for the letter you sent me concerning Immokalee area of Southwest Florida's application for designation as an Empowerment Zone.

At this juncture, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on your application. However, I hope the planning process has been a positive exercise for the Immokalee area of Southwest Florida and I wish you luck in pursuing your strategic vision.

Sincerely,

Carol H. Rasco

Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

J. Howard P. Black, CLU, ChFC
Registered Representative



CIGNA Financial Advisors
Insurance & Investments

CIGNA Financial Advisors, Inc.
3200 Bailey Lane
Suite 115
Naples, FL 33942
Telephone 813.261.4439
Facsimile 813.649.0348

August 23, 1994

Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Rasco;

I am writing to you in support of the Empowerment Zone application that has been submitted for the Immokalee area of Southwest Florida.

I am a resident of Collier County and serve on the Board of The Immokalee Foundation and The YMCA of Collier County. In these positions I have seen the need for programs to help the people of Immokalee to help themselves. This area is dependent upon agriculture. With the passage of NAFTA, we have already seen increased competition for the fruits and vegetables that, in the past, have come from this area. A number of Tomato growers have left the area taking with them a substantial number of jobs. These jobs are not quickly replaced. The Empowerment Zone grant will allow the area to develop alternate means of support and let it become a model for other struggling communities.

All of us in this area feel strongly about this application. We have, in this area, a wealth of talent to help the leadership in Immokalee to develop and run new programs. All that we ask is for an opportunity.

I urge you to support the Empowerment Zone application for Immokalee.

Sincerely,

J. Howard P. Black

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

24-Jul-1994 07:38pm

TO: Rosalyn A. Miller
TO: Paul J. Weinstein, Jr

FROM: Carol H. Rasco
Economic and Domestic Policy

SUBJECT: EZ/EC correspondence

Roz, please send Paul a copy of the Congressional letter on top of folder I have left for you on this topic along with a copy of the Rubin letter and the email printout that shows the letter I am using for citizens that write in support of their locales' grant application. Paul, I need a letter similar in tone/content to ~~Rubin's to send legislators. I'd like to sign a letter to these~~ first legislators (individual letters, Roz) before I leave Thursday at noon. Thanks.

See Attached

Letter is fine
Let's prepare
indiv. ltrs. to
each legislator
that called me.

Roz: See Email
on EZ/EC

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Re:

Here is the Little Carol
Requested... I took
Robin's, rewrote 1st
Paragraph and added a
4th Paragraph.

PJW

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 21, 1994

The Honorable Bill Bradley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bradley:

Thank you for writing me to express your support for the joint application submitted by the cities of Philadelphia and Camden to form a bi-state Empowerment Zone. I commend both cities for the spirit of cooperation and energy which they have brought to this effort and I sincerely hope that the planning process has proved beneficial to both cities.

As you know, the urban empowerment zones and enterprise communities will ultimately be designated by Secretary Cisneros and the rural zones and communities will be designated by Secretary Espy. In creating the Community Enterprise Board, which the Vice President chairs and for which Carol Rasco and I act as Vice-Chairs, the President directed the Secretaries to consult with the Board, primarily to ensure interagency coordination and cooperation with designated communities.

The Departments of Housing and Urban Development and of Agriculture have developed a coordinated review process that includes reviewers from agencies represented on the Community Enterprise Board. HUD has received 295 urban applications (77 of which are for empowerment zones). Agriculture has received 230 rural applications. The coordinated process for reviewing these applications will proceed over the summer. Secretaries Cisneros and Espy will consult with the members of the Community Enterprise Board on the results of this review process, before making final designations. Designations are expected to begin sometime in the fall.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Rubin
Assistant to the President
for Economic Policy

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E

04-Jul-1994 06:57pm

TO: Rosalyn A. Miller
FROM: Carol H. Rasco
Economic and Domestic Policy

SUBJECT: see form to use with EZ/EC letters

small stationery

Edit

Fill in blank with the name of town, towns, county, whatever entity applying.

Some may refer to pre-application in lieu of application itself. Response should be sensitive to which is mentioned.

We should try to get these out in July as process of selection will soon be underway.

Dear :

Thank you for the letter you sent me concerning _____'s application for designation as an Empowerment Zone (EZ) or Enterprise Community (EC).

At this juncture, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on your application. However, I hope the planning process has been a positive exercise for _____ and I wish you luck in pursuing your strategic vision.

Sincerely,

CHR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

22-Jul-1994 09:08am

TO: Rosalyn A. Miller
FROM: Carol H. Rasco
Economic and Domestic Policy
SUBJECT: Letter Sylvia will get you

See Attached
Responses to these letters have been mailed.
nam

She will be getting you a form letter they are using when letters of endorsement come for EZ/EC letters. It is critical that I see that letter over the weekend and also I need to have with it the letters I had given you to hold that are endorsements of EZ/EC applications. Thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 14, 1994

Ms. Virginia L. Branham
Acting Coordinator
Mingo County Commission
P.O. Box 1197
Williamson, West Virginia 25661

Dear Ms. Branham:

Thank you for the letter you sent both me and Carol Rasco with the accompanying draft concerning Mingo County's "pre-application" for designation as an Empowerment Zone (EZ) or Enterprise Community (EC). As I am sure you are well aware, in order to be considered for a rural EZ or EC, your complete application must be received by 4 p.m. on June 30, 1994 by the Rural Development Administration at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I have taken the liberty of forwarding your "pre-application" to the appropriate parties at the Agriculture Department. Please be sure to send your final application directly to USDA, at the address listed in the application materials, so that it will be received in advance of the deadline.

At this juncture, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on your "pre-application." However, I hope the planning process has been a positive exercise for Mingo County and I wish you luck in pursuing your strategic vision.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Rubin
Assistant to the President
for Economic Policy

cc: The Honorable Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy

Roz
~~See me.~~
See Email.
We don't have
to respond
to this
partic. body

MINGO COUNTY COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 1197

WILLIAMSON, WV 25661

(304) 235-1587

T.D.D. (304) 235-0757

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

LARRY CLINE
CURTIS FLETCHER
JIM HATFIELD*"Mingo"*

April 28, 1994

*Sheriff
Please provide
language for reply*

Robert E. Rubin, Vice Chair
Assistant to the President for
National Economic Policy Council
Old Executive Office Building, Room 231
17th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

RE: EMPOWERMENT ZONE

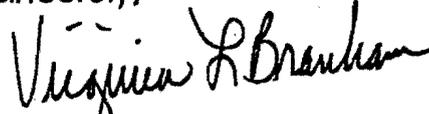
Dear Mr. Rubin:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being a part of President Clinton's Community Enterprise Board for the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) strategy for poverty-stricken inner-cities and rural heartlands. This program has inspired the citizens of Mingo County, West Virginia, to form a coalition (made up of various organizations, businesses and local citizens) to diversify the economy and create a better quality of life for its generations to come. The motivating spirit that once existed in our county during the famous "Hatfield-McCoy Feud" has once again emerged; this time in an indisputable and resourceful manner. While our great battles of the past decades were not economic ones, our greatest battle today is economic diversification and providing a good quality of life for the citizens of our county. The enclosed survey of our goals and objectives is indeed preliminary and is the result of our numerous community meetings held during the past two weeks.

We are taking this project very seriously here in Mingo County. This project will assist us in completing our county-wide plan to diversify our economy and provide a proper quality of life for our children. In Charleston, West Virginia, President Clinton picked a child from the crowd, Lindsey Preece, who reminded him of his daughter, Chelsea, and who was declared the "Child of Hope". She is only one of many children in our county who are faced with the problems of unemployment, inadequate education and housing, to name a few. Mingo County is the second most rural area in the entire United States. From certain areas in Mingo County, the county seat is a 40 to 45 minute drive. The Empowerment Zone funds would assist Mingo County in providing important essentials to its children and young adults so they may be raised in a good quality of life environment and remain in Mingo County. It is astonishing at the number of citizens who are forced to leave Mingo County due to inadequate jobs, education and housing. Many of these citizens, if given the opportunity, would prefer to remain here in Mingo County with their families.

Your opinion is very important to us. Enclosed please find a copy of our pre-application for your review. Should you have any comments, please contact me at 304/235-2673. As Acting Coordinator of the Empowerment Zone procedures and on behalf of all the citizens of Mingo County, I would like to thank you, in advance, for any assistance you may be able to give us in our efforts to enhance the quality of living in Mingo County.

Sincerely,



Virginia L. Branham
Acting Coordinator

VLB:vl

Enclosures

May 17 1994

Dear Friend

Harmon County OK is applying for
a Rural Empowerment Zone Grant.
Our County is a small County
with a high poverty rate

we don't have any high paying jobs
for our young people returned from
College for them to live here
we don't have housing for our
Senior Citizens to live that is,
unable to live in their ~~house~~ homes

Please ~~write~~ consider Harmon County
able when the President's Community
enterprise board meets to award
the Rural Empowerment Zone Grants.

Thank you

Jays M. Bell

May 19, 1994

P6/(b)(6)

JUN 7 REC'D

Dear Friend,

Please we need your help. I am a Senior Citizen, a widow after almost 49 years of a happy marriage, 3 wonderful Children and a happy farm life. All Children married, have grandchildren and am expecting my seventh great grandchild.

When my wonderful husband Ray died (of cancer) I had to sell our family farm to buy a home in town because of my being alone so far out and bad roads that I could not handle by myself.

All my friends and I love Hollis and County and there are many Senior Citizens. Our County is small and with high Poverty Rates.

Our Children would be happy to be able to live in the hometown they love, but they cannot afford to return because we do not have enough high paying jobs to help in this Area.

We have our small Country Church "Martin" that will be soon be 100 years old and on holidays it is full of our Children, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren. We all love it.

Our roads are terrible and we can not afford to keep them up, also our streets. We need housing for Senior Citizens. One of our worst thing is that our trash land field has been closed, now we

21
grass, street cleaning and all other types
needed to be cleared away, Our water tested
to be safe for us and so many many others
I can't name.

Please consider Our Harmon County
when the President's Community Enterprise
board meets to award the Rural
Improvement Zone Grants, we need
so bad.

We would like to also use the grant to attract
economic development so that our Children
can return home where they would love
to live and make it much better for us.

Have a great day and Please don't
forget us.

God Bless You and Yours Always.

In Christian Love,
Mary Helen Walby.

May 17, 1994
Hollis, Ok.

Dear Friend:

Harmon County Okla. is applying for a Rural Empowerment Zone Grant. We have less than four thousand people living in our County and a fifty percent poverty rate.

One of our greatest needs is to create jobs for our young people that have to leave here to find work. Our garbage system is not up to standard and no longer used.

We only have one housing project for retired Senior Citizens and it always has a long waiting list.

Please consider Harmon County when the President's Community enterprise board meets to award the Rural Empowerment zone Grants.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Connie Graves

P6/(b)(6)

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: _____

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by: _____

Draft response for CHR by: _____

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by: _____

Please advise by: _____

Let's discuss: _____

For your information: _____

Reply using form code: _____

File: _____

Send copy to (original to CHR): _____

Schedule ? : Accept Pending Regret

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: *Hold w/ others*

6/6/94

Carol Rasco
White House
1600 Penn. Ave. N.W.
Washington DC 20500

JUN 10 REC'D

Re: Rural Empowerment Zone Grant

Dear Madam:

I've been a resident of Harmon Co., for 35 years. Our County has many needs but we especially need a landfill and industry. We really need the grant money + I feel the money would be used wisely.

Sincerely,
Louella Guerett

P6(b)(6)

JUN - 6 REC'D

JAMES R. MOORE

Attorney at Law

202 WEST BROADWAY
P.O. BOX 788
HOLLIS, OKLAHOMA 73550
(405) 688-9255
FAX: (405) 688-2287

909 FALCON ROAD
JAYMAR OFFICE COMPLEX
ALTUS, OKLAHOMA 73521
(405) 482-7711

May 12, 1994

P6(b)(6)



Carol Rasco
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Rasco:

Harmon county is applying for a Rural Empowerment Zone Grant. During the presidential campaign I was fortunate enough to be a delegate to the National Democratic Convention as a delegate for Bill Clinton. We had the opportunity to offer suggestions that would improve our country. One of the things that I suggested was to help rural areas develop an economic base. This would also allievate some of the over crowding in the inner cities.

Our county is a small county with a high poverty rate. The people have a positive attitude and work together to make it a better place to live. Our young people cannot afford to return to Hollis because we do not have enough high paying jobs in this area. We would like to use the grant to attract economic development so that our youth can continue to live in a town that will give their children the kind of small-town upbringing that promotes high self-esteem which results in success in life.

Please consider Harmon county when the President's community enterprise board meets to award the grants.

Sincerely,

Linda Moore

Linda Moore
Harmon County
Democratic Party Chair

Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page, possibly a carbon copy or bleed-through from the reverse side.

Carol Rasco
White House
1600 Penn. Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

MAY 27 REC'D

As a concerned citizen, business owner and parent of a teenager and grandparent of Hollis Ok., I feel like we need this power development grant to improve our economic level. We need grants to create jobs to put people to work instead of letting them draw welfare and food stamps.

We need this grant to create jobs to keep our children that graduating from high school and college here in Hollis. This grant money can be used to upgrade our baseball and softball fields, our swimming pool and more recreational areas in Hollis. To provide places for sports so our young people will not turn to crime and increase our prison population.

Harmon County is a agriculture county, most any crop can be grown here. With grant money we could build processing plants for those products and put a lot of people to work.

Small rural towns like Hollis is the backbone of America. That is the reason I feel we need this Power Development Grant. To be able to improve our community so that our children and grandchildren will have a place to come home to would be a wonderful idea.

Rita Chance

Rita chance

P6(b)(6)

C. M. Burris

MAY 27 1994

P6/(b)(6)

May 17, 1994

Dear Friend:

We in Harmon County are applying for a Rural Empowerment Harmon County Zone Grant. We are a small County here in Hollis, Okla. and we have a very high poverty rate. We need high paying jobs for our young people to come back to Hollis to work. We would like to use the grant to attract economic development so our youth can return and become productive citizens of our community. We need housing for our senior citizens. We need a site to dump our trash in Harmon County. Better Hospital so patients can stay in Harmon County.

More than 35% of our people live in poverty in Harmon County. Would you please consider Harmon County when the President's Community Enterprise Board meets to award the Rural Empowerment Zone Grant.

Sincerely,
C. M. Burris

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

MAY 31 1963

CAROL H. RASCO

Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Roy - Hold as others until
we have an answer

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by: _____

Draft response for CHR by: _____

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by: _____

Please advise by: _____

Let's discuss: _____

For your information: _____

Reply using form code: _____

File: _____

Send copy to (original to CHR): _____

Schedule ? : Accept Pending Regret

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: _____

Harris Ok.
May 17, 1994

Dear Friend,

Harman Co. is applying for a Rural Empowerment Zone Grant. We need this grant because we have no jobs for our children + grandchildren. We have water + trash problems because of government regulations. We need Senior Citizen housing. We are losing our tax base. Harman Co. has one of the highest Poverty rates in the state. The majority of our people are over 65. Please consider Harman Co. Okla. when the Presidents enterprise board meets to award the Rural Empowerment Zone Grant.

Sincerely;
Stella Gallop

Carol Rasco
White House
1600 Penn Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

I have lived and worked in Hollis most of my life. Now I am Postmaster in the small town of Gould which is in Harmon County. Even though I work in Gould I still live in Hollis and own a small business. I have watched both Hollis and Gould get smaller each year because there is nothing for kids graduating from school to stay here for or to come back to once they leave. This power development grant could change all that.

Harmon County is noted for the poorest county in Oklahoma. Also we are the only county in Oklahoma that has only one school in it. It is not something to be proud of. With a grant we could create jobs by enticing new business to locate here and expand existing business. We could offer grants or low interest loans to business that wanted to expand. My wife and I opened a small business five years ago and it is still going but it took our life savings to do it because there was no money to be had that we could afford to borrow.

It makes me sick to see the bigger towns get all the grants and low interest loans and rural towns get nothing. The big get bigger and the small get smaller. With your help and the help of this grant we could change some of that. We do not want the crime and drug problems the big cities have we just want a chance to get our kids back and keep them here. You will

be one of the ones that decide if that is possible. We have had the shaft long enough now we would like to try for the gold



Jerry Don Chance



P6(b)(6)

Pat Daniel

P6/(b)(6)

Carol Rasco
White House
1600 Penn. Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: RURAL EMPOWERMENT ZONE GRANT

Dear Ms. Rasco:

The residents of Harmon County are very interested in being able to receive the rural empowerment zone grant. Harmon County is considered to have the highest per capita poverty level in the State of Oklahoma. Our primary industry is farming and most if not all of our businesses depend on the success of farming directly or indirectly.

The monies from the empowerment zone grant would afford us an opportunity to develop new industry and provide jobs for many of our lower income families who are now on welfare. These monies would help us to help ourselves over the long term. We aren't looking for a short term fix but something that would provide jobs for the future.

We need jobs to allow our young people to return to Hollis after college to raise their families.

Our greatest asset is our people - people who are willing to work together to do whatever is necessary to make our community and our county a better place. The one thing we lack is available money to create new jobs.

We are proud of Hollis, of Harmon County, and of the opportunities of free enterprise afforded by being an American.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pat Daniel

Pat Daniel

Robbie Gee

P6/(b)(6)

Carol Rasco,
White House
1600 Penn Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

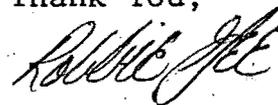
Dear Mrs. Rasco;

Our county has had possible Empowerment Zone Grant Opportunities introduced to us. I believe that Southwest Oklahoma, as well as Harmon County, would benefit from this program.

It has been written a couple of times in the Daily Oklahoman that Harmon County is poverty stricken. I believe any time a project is introduced to help people obtain jobs and better themselves, it is a project worth undertaking.

The people of Harmon county are a hard working, caring people. Given the chance, they can make this project work. Please give us that opportunity.

Thank You,



Robbie Gee

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

MAY 31 RECEIVED

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Hold as others

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by: _____

Draft response for CHR by: _____

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by: _____

Please advise by: _____

Let's discuss: _____

For your information: _____

Reply using form code: _____

File: _____

Send copy to (original to CHR): _____

Schedule? : Accept Pending Regret

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: _____

Tillie Long

P6/(b)(6)

May 16, 1994

Re: Rural Empowerment Zone Grant

Carol Rasco
White House
1600 Penn, Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Rasco:

There are so many factors involved in our wishes to attain this grant.

We are primarily a community or area of this state which is at the very lowest income status. As a result, we have lower living standards and are forced to participate in the Welfare system to exist.

We are not asking for the grant as a means to dole out money to each and every individual, but as a stepping stone to establishing ways and means that we might provide jobs in some manner to those that wish to work for a living and not be on the Welfare system. Which, that in itself will help the Federal Government reduce the deficit.

We are working on proposals as to what means we might be able to establish jobs, but if enthusiasm and participation is what is needed we definitely will qualify.

These grants to areas which need access to ways to help ourselves is what is needed for a more debt free, proud concious, valuable citizens for the USA.

Sincerely,


Tillie Long

MAY 31 REC'D

CITY OF HOLLIS
Box 188
Hollis, Oklahoma 73550
405-688-9245

May 25, 1994

Carol Rasco
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Rasco:

The City of Hollis is committed to working with the Harmon County Officials, Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Agency, the Town of Vinson, various other agencies, businesses and local citizens in developing a strategic plan for obtaining an empowerment zone grant or becoming an enterprise community.

As Mayor, I feel that this grant would enable Hollis and Harmon County to obtain the goals, that we have set, and to secure some industry to create jobs, that are much needed, in our area.

Any consideration you could give us, as a member of the "President's Community Enterprise Board", will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Therol Nell
Therol Nell
Mayor

TN/mcw

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Sylvia

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by: _____

Draft response for CHR by: MAY 20 REC'D

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by: Carol

Please advise by: I passed ours on to

Let's discuss: Sherry II C to ask for

For your information: her guidance on a

Reply using form code: resps and whether

File: or not we should forward. I will

Send copy to (original to CHR): let you know what she says. We

Schedule?: did receive this one
 Accept Pending Regret sm

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: I assume Bob is getting
letters like this too. I intend
to ignore them - Agree?

MINGO COUNTY COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 1197

WILLIAMSON, WV 25661

(304) 235-1587

T.D.D. (304) 235-0757

MAY 18 REC'D

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

LARRY CLINE
CURTIS FLETCHER
JIM HATFIELD

April 28, 1994

Carol H. Rasco, Vice Chair
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy Council
White House Office
Old Executive Office
17th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

RE: EMPOWERMENT ZONE

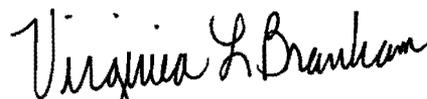
Dear Ms. Rasco:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being a part of President Clinton's Community Enterprise Board for the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) strategy for poverty-stricken inner-cities and rural heartlands. This program has inspired the citizens of Mingo County, West Virginia, to form a coalition (made up of various organizations, businesses and local citizens) to diversify the economy and create a better quality of life for its generations to come. The motivating spirit that once existed in our county during the famous "Hatfield-McCoy Feud" has once again emerged; this time in an indisputable and resourceful manner. While our great battles of the past decades were not economic ones, our greatest battle today is economic diversification and providing a good quality of life for the citizens of our county. The enclosed survey of our goals and objectives is indeed preliminary and is the result of our numerous community meetings held during the past two weeks.

We are taking this project very seriously here in Mingo County. This project will assist us in completing our county-wide plan to diversify our economy and provide a proper quality of life for our children. In Charleston, West Virginia, President Clinton picked a child from the crowd, Lindsey Preece, who reminded him of his daughter, Chelsea, and who was declared the "Child of Hope". She is only one of many children in our county who are faced with the problems of unemployment, inadequate education and housing, to name a few. Mingo County is the second most rural area in the entire United States. From certain areas in Mingo County, the county seat is a 40 to 45 minute drive. The Empowerment Zone funds would assist Mingo County in providing important essentials to its children and young adults so they may be raised in a good quality of life environment and remain in Mingo County. It is astonishing at the number of citizens who are forced to leave Mingo County due to inadequate jobs, education and housing. Many of these citizens, if given the opportunity, would prefer to remain here in Mingo County with their families.

Your opinion is very important to us. Enclosed please find a copy of our pre-application for your review. Should you have any comments, please contact me at 304/235-2673. As Acting Coordinator of the Empowerment Zone procedures and on behalf of all the citizens of Mingo County, I would like to thank you, in advance, for any assistance you may be able to give us in our efforts to enhance the quality of living in Mingo County.

Sincerely,



Virginia L. Branham
Acting Coordinator

VLB:vl

Enclosures

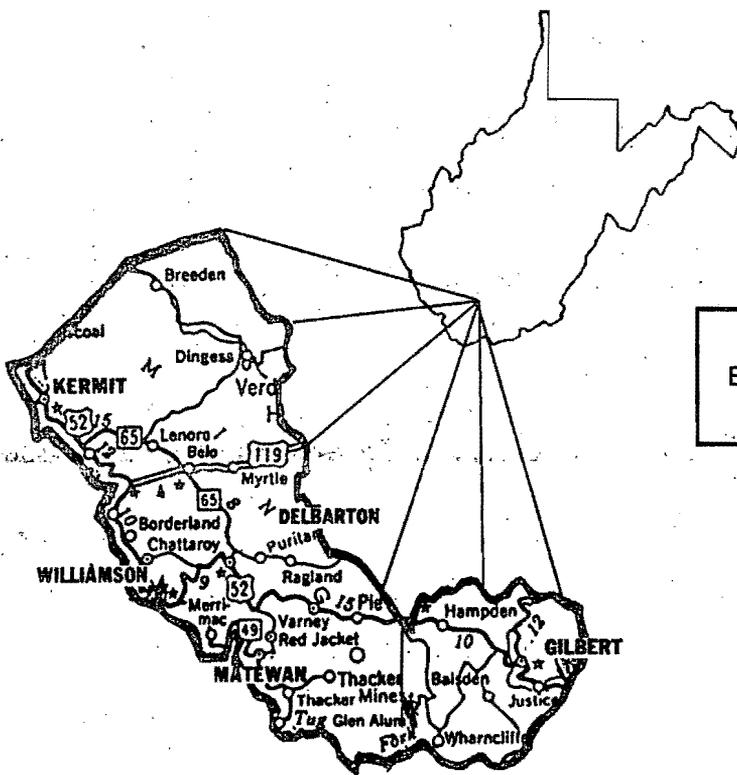
Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

EMPOWER MINGO COUNTY



Preliminary
Empowerment Zone Committee's
Goals & Objectives

Empowerment Zone Planning and Development

Nominating Local Government:

Mingo County Commission

Contact Person:

Virginia Branham, EZ / EC Coordinator
P.O. Box 1197 • Williamson, WV 25661
235-2673

Local Coordinating Entities:

Mingo County Redevelopment Authority
Williamson Main Street
Matewan Development Center
Gilbert Regional Partners In Development
Tug Valley Chamber of Commerce
Family Resource Network
Mingo County Economic Opportunity Commission

Provided by: *Williamson Daily News*

**EMPOWERMENT ZONE/
ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY**

INDEX

COVER LETTER <i>MINGO COUNTY COMMISSION</i>	
OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY INTEREST <i>SUMMARY</i>	
OUTLINE FOR CONSIDERATION BY EZ/EC COMMITTEE <i>OUTLINE IN SECTIONS</i>	
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE	SECTION 1
IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ZONES AND THE TRACTS MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES CONTAINED WITHIN IT	SECTION 2
DESCRIPTION OF AREA CONDITIONS	SECTION 3
ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT IMPACT	SECTION 4
COMMUNITY SUPPORT	SECTION 5
LOCAL POINT OF CONTACT	SECTION 6
ADMINISTRATIVE/STAFFING SUPPORT	SECTION 7
DESCRIPTION OF PREVIOUS AND ONGOING STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORTS IN MINGO COUNTY AND HOW THE EZ/EC STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS WILL BE COORDINATED WITH THESE EFFORTS	SECTION 8
SUPPORT LETTERS	SECTION 9

MINGO COUNTY COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 1197

WILLIAMSON, WV 25661

(304) 235-1587

T.D.D. (304) 235-0757

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

LARRY CLINE
CURTIS FLETCHER
JIM HATFIELD

March 14, 1994

EZ/EC COMMITTEE
C/O WV RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
2 PLAYERS CLUB DRIVE
CHARLESTON WV 25311

Dear Sirs:

The Mingo County Commission hereby obligates this entity to provide the necessary administrative/staffing support to assure the completion and implementation of the strategic plan for the empowerment zone application.

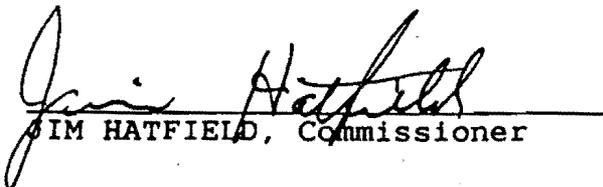
Furthermore, continued financial, administrative, and technical support will be provided should this designation be given to the area proposed in the pre-application.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me.

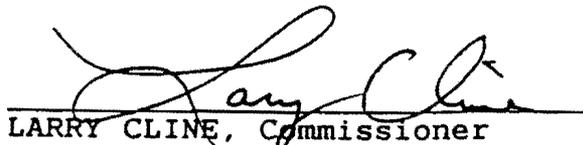
Sincerely,



A. CURTIS FLETCHER, President



JIM HATFIELD, Commissioner



LARRY CLINE, Commissioner

Since President Clinton announced the application process for empowerment zones/enterprise communities, several concerned citizens have united to educate the public about this process. Community leaders have made a preliminary determination of community interest in applying for area nomination and formed a group of key agencies to spearhead this process. This is evidenced by the following information contained below and support letters from various public and private sector groups.

The group's first public meeting was held February 4, 1994, to inform attendees about legislation and to gauge interest in attending meeting sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Charleston.

On February 8, 1994, the USDA conference was held in Charleston and Mingo County was well represented by persons from Bureau of Employment Security, Mingo County Economic Opportunity Commission, Family Resource Network, Town of Gilbert and Region II Planning & Development Council.

On March 2, 1994, a public meeting on Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community was held with twenty-two people in attendance. Persons present were polled to serve on a task force. At this point twelve persons volunteered to serve as a task force. During this meeting, Region II Planning & Development offered assistance of staff to prepare pre-application.

On March 7, 1994, a task force meeting was held in Williamson to prepare information for State nomination by March 15, 1994. Thirty two persons attended this meeting.

The main point of the agenda was to define the area of consideration since Gilbert representatives had previously indicated withdrawal to be designated as proposed empowerment zone. Data had been prepared eliminating the Stafford Census tract which allowed proposed zone to fall under the 30,000 population range.

However, during this meeting a representative from the Gilbert area indicated an interest in being part of the Mingo County proposed empowerment zone. Extended discussion was held by members of the group with various options being considered to meet population range. The possibility of eliminating the Williamson area and

Gilbert area was put to a vote. While all present were reluctant to eliminate any portion of Mingo County from the proposed zone, twelve voted to eliminate Gilbert; one for eliminating Williamson and eleven abstained from voting.

The next item of discussion was to select a lead agency. Two organizations were named: Mingo County Commission and the Mingo County Family Resource Network. The County Commission was chosen as the lead agency with Virginia L. Branham designated as local point of contact for the program.

The group agreed to hold it's next meeting on March 29, 1994, at 4:30 in Williamson Main Street Offices.

#7

G. ADMINISTRATIVE/STAFFING SUPPORT

Description of how administrative / staffing support will be provided for the program.

The Mingo County Commission has agreed to utilize existing staff to oversee the development of the strategic plan and obligate financial resources as required to develop a workable program.

#8

H. DESCRIPTION OF OTHER IN-COUNTY PLANNING

A description of previous and ongoing strategic planning efforts in Mingo County and how the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community strategic planning process will be coordinated with these efforts.

As evidenced by the number of participating entities and summary of their programs a great deal of planning has occurred within the individual agencies throughout the years. The Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community concept will incorporate individual plans, ideas, thoughts on economic development, health, social, political and education to become one collaborative plan which will focus on a vision for a better Mingo County. A strategic plan shall be developed specific to the needs of the population within the proposed zone and shall be a community plan...not simply a plan for the community.

#9

I. SUPPORT LETTERS

Notice of Intent to Participate

Empowerment Zone or
Enterprise Community

This is notification to the:

Department of Housing and Urban Development (for urban)
Office of Community Planning and Development
EZ/EC Team, Room 7255
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

or

Department of Agriculture (for rural)
Rural Development Administration
EZ/EC Team, Room 5405
14th & Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-3200

that the entity named here:
intends to participate in the
nomination of an Empowerment Zone
or Enterprise Community.

Mingo County Commission

Name & Address of Participating Entity:

P. O. Box 1197
Williamson, WV 25661

Virginia Branham (304) 235-2673

Contact & Phone No:

Check here if you are a:

Nominating Entity

If you are not a nominating entity,
identify the nominating entity:

Nominating Entity: (city, State)

Submission Requirements

OMB Approval No. 2506 0148 (exp. 12/31/93)

In order to be considered for designation, nominations which are complete and acceptable for processing must be received by 4:00 PM, Eastern Daylight Savings Time, Thursday, June 30, 1994. Nominations must be submitted in the general format which follows, including the elements of the Strategic Plan. The document can be reproduced, if necessary, in order to give flexibility in preparation as long as the basic outline is followed.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan is a narrative submission and the core of the nomination. It is recommended that an index or table of contents identify major components and that the pages be numbered sequentially. Tabs or other separations may be used as appropriate. Refer to the Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Application Guide for more information on how to prepare a Strategic Plan.

Submissions

- Notice of Intent to Participate (submit as early as possible)
- Strategic Plan
- Map: Attach a copy of the 1990 census map that shows;
(1) the boundaries of the local government(s) listed in Part I and;
(2) the boundaries of the nominated area.
- Nomination Form Parts I through IV
- Other Forms
 - Participating Entities
 - Federal Program Applications

Send an original and two copies of the nomination to:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development
EZ/EC Team, Room 7255
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

or

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Development Administration
EZ/EC Team, Room 5405
14th & Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-3200

Part II: Eligibility Information

This form incorporates the information necessary to demonstrate that the nominated area meets the statutory eligibility requirements for consideration and designation. Procedures for identifying the population and poverty rate data are given in Part IV. Use the results to answer the appropriate items in Sections A and B below.

	Yes	No		Yes	No
A. Size & Location of the Nominated Area					
1. What is the square mileage of the nominated area?	<input type="text" value="358"/>		2. Do any of the census tracts included in the nominated area have:		
2. Is the nominated area located wholly within the jurisdiction of the legal government(s) listed in Part I?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. no population?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. How many States are in the nominated area?	<input type="text" value="1"/>		If "yes," do 50% of the other census tracts have at least 35% poverty?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the boundary of the nominated area continuous?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. populations of less than 2,000?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Does the nominated area consist of two or three noncontiguous parcels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If "yes," is 75% of the tract zoned commercial/industrial and certified in Part III?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If "yes," how many?	<input type="text"/>		3. From the Part IV Population Data form, provide the following information for the entire area nominated:		
6. Urban nominations only:			a. Total 1990 census population	<input type="text" value="28,647"/>	
Is the nominated area in a Metropolitan Area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Do all census tracts or block numbering areas of the nominated zone have a 20% or more poverty rate?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If "no," has the nominating local government either a population of 20,000 or more, or documented the urban character of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. If no, is the exemption request identified in B.1. above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural nominations only:			4. Urban applications only:		
Is the nominated area outside a Metropolitan Area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the population of the most populous city in the nominated area?	<input type="text"/>	
Is 51% or more of the population of the nominated area outside a Metropolitan Area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. What is the name of that city?	<input type="text"/>	
Is any portion of a central business district included?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<hr/>		
If "yes," are the census tracts / block numbering areas identified on the Population Data form?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Distress of the Nominated Area. The major indices of distress are pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress.		
a. Does any tract that includes the central business district have a poverty rate of less than 35%?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Is the pervasive poverty of the area detailed in the Strategic Plan and certified in Part III?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If "yes," eligibility is limited to Enterprise Community status.			2. Is the unemployment of the area detailed in the Strategic Plan and certified in Part III?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Population & Poverty Rate of the Nominated Area			3. Is the general distress of the area, including the physical and social conditions that demonstrate it, detailed in the Strategic Plan and certified in Part III?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1. Does this nomination contain a request for a Secretarial exemption of the poverty threshold?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Poverty rate threshold exemption limits eligibility to Enterprise Community status. Only one form of the exemption can be used.					
Check which exemption is being requested:					
The exemption to reduce the poverty rate threshold by 5 percentage points for up to 10% of the population census tracts (or 5 population census tracts)					
a. for the 20% threshold poverty rate	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b. for the 25% threshold poverty rate	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c. for the 35% threshold poverty rate or	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d. for the 35% threshold poverty rate by up to 10 percentage points for three population census tracts	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Nomination

for Federal Empowerment
Zone & Enterprise Community
Designation

U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning
and Development

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Development Administration

Number of years of
designation requested:
(maximum of 10 years)

Nomination Categories: (mark one in each column)

Rural Enterprise Community
 Urban Empowerment Zone

(will automatically also be
considered for Enterprise
Community.)

Part I: State and Local Government Identification

A. Nominating State Government(s)

Name of State or Corporation: _____ Governor's or Corporate Director's Name: _____

Contact Person: (name and title) _____ Telephone Number: _____

Address: (street / PO box, city, State & zip code)

Name of State or Corporation: _____ Governor's or Corporate Director's Name: _____

Contact Person: (name and title) _____ Telephone Number: _____

Address: (street / PO box, city, State & zip code)

B. Nominating Local Government(s) Enter the total number of nominating local governments.

Name of Jurisdiction: _____ Metropolitan Area Name: (If in an MA) _____

Chief Elected Official: _____

Contact Person: (name and title) _____ Telephone Number: _____

Address: (street / PO box, city, State & zip code) _____ County: _____

Name of Jurisdiction: _____ Metropolitan Area Name: (If in an MA) _____

Chief Elected Official: _____

Contact Person: (name and title) _____ Telephone Number: _____

Address: (street / PO box, city, State & zip code) _____ County: _____

C. Lead/Coordinating Entity (for questions concerning the nomination. This can be a nominating entity or one of the participating entities.)

Name of Entity: _____

Contact Person: (name and title) _____ Telephone Number: _____

Address: (street / PO box, city, State & zip code)

Attach separate sheet(s), as necessary, to provide identical information for all governments nominating the area.
Number the additional sheets 3a, 3b, etc.

Part IV: Population Data Duplicate this page if needed. Number the added pages 6a, 6b, etc.

Enter the total number of census tracts / block numbering areas listed on all pages in the block to the right.

--

Name of County:

Mingo

Name of State:

West Virginia

1. Census Geographic Area Census Tract Code/Block Numbering Area	2. 1990 Population	3. Land Area (sq. miles)	Poverty		5. Code	1. Census Geographic Area Census Tract Code/Block Numbering Area	2. 1990 Population	3. Land Area (sq. miles)	Poverty		5. Code
			4a. No. of Persons in each Tract	4b. Percent Below Poverty Level					4a. No. of Persons in each Tract	4b. Percent Below Poverty Level	
1. 9571	5,099	108.6	1,900	37.7		21.					
2. 9572	4,226	68.3	1,290	30.6		22.					
3. 9573	4,988	52.2	1,773	35.0		23.					
4. 9574	5,028	8.9	1,149	23.6		24.					
5. 9575	4,636	48.5	1,679	36.8		25.					
6. 9576	4,670	71.7	1,272	27.3		26.					
7.						27.					
8.						28.					
9.						29.					
10.						30.					
11.						31.					
12.						32.					
13.						33.					
14.						34.					
15.						35.					
16.						36.					
17.						37.					
18.						38.					
19.						39.					
20.						40.					
Totals						28,647	358.2	9,063			

Number of census tracts / block numbering areas that have a poverty rate of 25% or greater.	5
Number of census tracts / block numbering areas that have a poverty rate of 35% or greater.	3
Number of census tracts / block numbering areas with a population of less than 2000.	0
Number of census tracts / block numbering areas with no population.	0

Part III. Certifications

I hereby certify that the portion of the nominated area that I represent meets all Federal eligibility requirements and that to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- a. the information in this nomination is true and correct;
- b. each nominating government has the authority, with respect to the nominated area, to:
 - (1) nominate such area for designation as an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community;
 - (2) make the State and local commitments that the Strategic Plan will be implemented; and
 - (3) provide assurances that such commitments will be fulfilled;
- c. the nominating governments shall comply with State, local and Federal program requirements, and have agreed in writing to carry out the Strategic Plan if the application is approved;
- d. the geographic area contains no portion of an area which is either designated as a Federal Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community or is otherwise included in any other area nominated for designation as an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community;
- e. the geographic area contains no portion or area within an Indian reservation;
- f. no action will be taken to relocate any business establishment to the nominated area;
- g. the nominated areas of each unit of local government meet each of the eligibility criteria set forth in the program regulations, i.e.:
 - (1) the geographic area does not exceed the population maximum test;
 - (2) the geographic area is one of pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress;
 - (3) the geographic area meets the size and boundary test;
 - (4) the geographic area meets the poverty rate tests; and
- h. each noncontiguous area (up to three) being nominated separately meets the poverty rate test;
- i. the amounts provided to the State for the area under Section 2007 of Title XX of the Social Security Act will not be used to supplant Federal or non-Federal funds for services and activities which promote the purposes of Section 2007;
- j. the nominating governments or corporations agree to make all information available as requested by the designating Secretaries to aid in evaluation of progress in implementation of the strategic plan and reporting on the use of EZ/EC SSBG funds;
- k. the nominating State agrees to distribute the EZ/EC SSBG funds in accordance with the strategic plan submitted by the designated zone or community.

Authorized Nominating State or Corporation Official(s) type or print

State or Corporation:	Signature & Date:
Name & Title:	X
State or Corporation:	Signature & Date:
Name & Title:	X

Authorized Nominating Local Government(s) and Official(s) type or print

Governmental unit & State name:	Signature & Date:
Official Name & Title:	X
Governmental unit & State name:	Signature & Date:
Official Name & Title:	X
Governmental unit & State name:	Signature & Date:
Official Name & Title:	X

Attach separate sheet(s), as necessary, to provide identical information and official signatures for all governments nominating the area. Number the sheets 5a, 5b, etc.

Mingo County was formed in 1895 from Logan County and is the youngest county in West Virginia. It is named for the Indian Tribe of which Logan was chief.

Mingo County is located in southern West Virginia and has a total land area of 423.50 square miles. Municipalities within the County are Kermit, Williamson, Delbarton, Matewan, and Gilbert.

This area of the State is dependent upon coal and lumber industries. Chief agricultural products include livestock, corn and potatoes.

Major highways serving Mingo County include U.S. Routes 52 and 119 and WV State Routes 49, 65, and 80.

Education in Mingo County is provided by fifteen elementary schools, six junior high schools, five high schools, three private schools and one vocational school. Southern West Virginia Community College is located in Williamson.

The population of Mingo County reflects a 10.6% decrease between 1980 and 1990. The U.S. Census Bureau figures reflect 1980 population being 37,336 and the 1990 population at 33,739. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the population decline will continue through 1992 with an estimated 33,603 persons. This decline in population is in relationship to the State of West Virginia as a whole. The U.S. Census Bureau showed the 1980 population of West Virginia at 1,949,644 and the 1990 population at 1,793,477.

The population decline of Mingo County is further reflected by the number of abandoned/vacant housing units. Total housing units according to the U.S. Census Bureau in 1990 was 13,087 with 1,257 units, or 10% of the housing units available being abandoned or vacant.

The existence of pervasive poverty is evidenced by the qualifying poverty rates of 1990 census tracts submitted with this application, which range from 23.6% to nearly 38%. In 1990, 2,088 persons received annual public assistance at an average of \$3,760 per person. Aid to Families with Dependent Children is provided to 3,215 persons. There were 10,141 recipients of food stamps in Mingo County in January of 1994 according to the Department of Health and Human Resources Office of Audit Research and Analysis, receiving \$731,255

in assistance.

Of 11,850 households in the entire County, only 1,210 show annual income levels over \$50,000. The Department of Housing and Urban Development lists the low-to-moderate income level at 46.5%

The unemployment rate for Mingo County according to 1990 Census data is 15.5% with 1,541 persons unemployed.

General distress of the area can be demonstrated by noting the average local per capita income of \$8,328 compared with an average of \$10,520 for West Virginia and \$14,056 for the United States as reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Outmigration figures cited earlier in this text indicate a 10% decline in population between 1980 and 1990. Lack of available jobs is the reason most frequently cited for leaving the County by former residents.

Barely 50 per cent of the County's population are high school graduates and only 6.6% hold Bachelor's Degrees according to Bureau of the Census 1990 figures. School drop out rates remained above 16% in both the 1980 and 1990 Census figures. Though literacy information is difficult to verify, the 1992 Long Range Plan of the Library Commission records 4,723 people estimated to be illiterate at a rate of 14% of the County population.

Records for the number of narcotic and drug arrests were provided by the WV University Census Office and show an erratic but increasing incidence rate ranging from a low of 30 to a high of 70 arrests annually between 1988 and 1991.

Lack of adequate infrastructure has traditionally hindered development of the proposed area. Only one four lane highway serves the area and it is still under construction. The remaining two-lane roads serving the defined zone are most often narrow and without shoulder spaces. Twisting through rugged terrain and heavily utilized by coal trucks and other commercial vehicles, roads make travel difficult and hazardous. There is not one modern industrial site in existence served by basic utilities in the entire district.

The per cent of population unserved by a water system in Mingo County is 57.2 or 15,990 persons, while 65.6 per cent are without sewer system service.

The six census tracts included in the proposal for Empowerment Zone designation represent a practical relationship of geography linked by transportation, shopping patterns, shared service providers and county government. Although Williamson differs from the other census tracts comprising the area to the degree that it has less poverty and is by contrast, a concentrated commercial center, it is one of the unifying elements of this proposal. A financial, medical, and governmental center, Williamson, the county seat, is a magnet for much trade throughout the region. Utility and social service offices, regional retailers, banks and educational facilities draw people from each of the surrounding tracts. Many commuters from each of the other tracts are employed in the Williamson community and vice-versa.

The Tug River Valley, by its longstanding name, emphasizes the relationship among the communities of the area who have unified in many organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce and Mingo County Redevelopment Authority which share membership throughout the proposed zone.

Each census tract in the proposal touches the River Valley and is bound by the limited highway traffic patterns created by users of U.S. 52, Corridor G and State Route 49.

Southern West Virginia Community College provides services to students from the entire area. Courses include two year university transfer programs, developmental courses and continuing education, as well as occupational technical programs. The institution is recognized as a major center for career development and is widely used to enhance employability throughout the proposed zone.

Future infrastructure improvement plans for the nominated tracts are intricately interrelated. As water system development continues, major suppliers will be Williamson, Kermit and Matewan, tying together a delivery system throughout the six tract area.

The Matewan floodwall project is currently under construction and will complete floodproofing and enhance the appeal of developable land, a great portion of which lies within zone borders.

Revitalization and tourism are of regional interest with

several groups concentrating on projects to make the area more attractive to visitors. Williamson Main Street, Matewan Development Center and Hatfield-McCoy Trail System are currently conducting programs to that end.

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: _____

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by: _____

Draft response for CHR by: _____

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by: _____

Please advise by: _____

Let's discuss: _____

For your information: _____

Reply using form code: _____

File: _____

Send copy to (original to CHR): _____

Schedule ? : Accept Pending Regret

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: *Hold by others on
this topic*

JUN - 3 REC'D



FIRST STATE BANK & TRUST CO.

May 24, 1994

Carol Rasco
White House
1600 Penn. Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Carol,

Our Community is developing an Empowerment Zone that will solidify and maximize our efforts for realizing our vision and future.

We ask your support in our effort to receive an award of Empowerment Zone moneys.

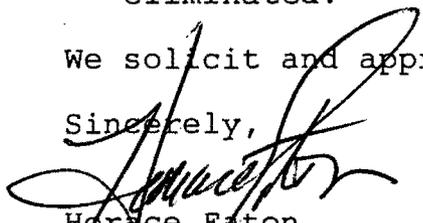
We intend to have in operation a strong Community Association which combines, promotes and maximizes the efforts of volunteers toward realizing each goal of our vision by the year 2005.

We will achieve these goals and others.

1. Create a mechanism for distributing and managing development moneys for local projects.
2. Create a mechanism for cooperating, administration and distribution of Empowerment Zone moneys.
3. Let our pride shine.
4. Active racial balance in positions of leadership.
5. Develop leaders as mentors.
6. Combine local Government in City and County and allow rural area citizens to vote in City elections after duplication is eliminated.

We solicit and appreciate your support.

Sincerely,


Horace Eaton
President



FIRST STATE BANK & TRUST CO.

May 24, 1994

Carol Rasco
White House
1600 Penn. Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Carol,

Harmon County Residents are combining their efforts toward developing a strategic plan of action for an Empowerment Zone Association. Only with an Empowerment enterprise can Harmon County realize means with which to meet our economic growth goals for survival in rural America.

First State Bank & Trust Company recognizes the need for a complete infrastructure upgrade. One of the greatest needs is housing and home financing assistance. We have made it possible for rural Oklahoma residents to receive financial assistance for purchasing and refinancing their homes by becoming FHA, VA, FmHA 100% guaranteed, and Government Conventional approved lender. However, Harmon County needs: 1. Housing programs for low income families, handicap and senior citizens. 2. Better housing from either construction of new homes and refurbishing, replacing and/or demolishing homes beyond repair. 3. Advanced care apartments for senior citizens. 4. Self help groups to volunteer and help reconstruct and remodel homes. Only with the Certified Cities program and partnership with Government and City support, can we create a funded Housing Authority 6. Administer and complete the much needed demanded for housing.

We respectfully request your support in our effort to achieve Empowerment Zone funds.

Sincerely,

Pam Patrick
Vice President