

CITY OF NEW HAMPTON

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

BOX 435
NEW HAMPTON, IA 50659
PHONE 641-394-2437
FAX 641-394-4514
email: nhampton@iowatelecom.net

July 2, 2007

JUL 09 2007

NMTC Program Manager
CDFI Fund – U.S. Department of the Treasury
601 13th Street, NW, Suite 200 South
Washington, DC 2005

Dear Sirs:

As the Economic Development Director for the City of New Hampton, Iowa, I am very interested in the New Market Tax Credit program. The problem that small non-metropolitan areas have is that we are not receiving a fair percentage of the allocated dollars. Also, many of Iowa's rural communities are not eligible because of their location, but they have also suffered large population losses.

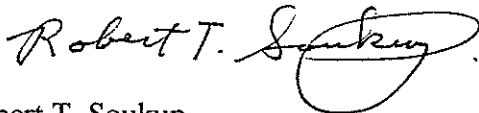
My community, New Hampton (population 3,692), is not eligible even though our population has decreased from 4,100 in the 1980's. However, we are adjacent, (within a quarter of a mile), to a township that is eligible. As a county seat town, New Hampton is in the center of Chickasaw County, and has the only fully developed industrial park with infrastructure ready for development.

In determining a non-metro NMTC award, I suggest that the CDFI also consider the workforce laborshed surrounding the qualifying census tract. If any contiguous census tract to a qualifying non-metro census tract is also considered to be non-metropolitan, and part of the qualifying census tracts workforce laborshed comes from the contiguous census tract, then that contiguous census tract should be deemed to be a qualifying census tract for NMTC awards.

I strongly believe that we can compete economically and be good stewards of the taxpayer's money if the U.S. Treasury includes additional rural areas and allocates additional funding to them.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal to help rural America.

Sincerely,



Robert T. Soukup
Economic Development Director
New Hampton, IA 50659

"The City of Expanding Horizons"