



Rural Community Assistance Partnership

November 20, 2023

The Honorable Bob Casey Jr.
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Deb Fischer
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Senators Casey and Fischer,

On behalf of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your leadership in introducing the bipartisan *Rural Partnership and Prosperity Act of 2023*. This legislation, spearheaded by your leadership and grassroots rural stakeholders, is a commendable effort to address the pressing needs of rural communities across our nation.

We are particularly impressed by the thoughtful inclusion of the Rural Partnership Program Grants and Rural Prosperity Technical Assistance Grants, both housed at USDA-Rural Development. These programs will undoubtedly provide crucial support for economic and community development activities, addressing urgent needs such as affordable childcare, housing, infrastructure, and job training.

Your commitment to doubling down on efforts to formalize a whole-of-government approach through the codification of the Rural Partners Network is noteworthy. This approach, by activating federal agencies in new ways and facilitating better cross-agency coordination, is a vital step toward ensuring that rural communities receive their fair share of private and federal investment.

Once again, thank you for your dedication to the well-being of rural America. I am optimistic about the positive changes this legislation can bring, thank you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you to ensure this bipartisan legislation is included in a new five-year Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olga", written in a cursive style.

Olga Morales Pate
Chief Executive Officer
Rural Community Assistance Partnership