

REPLY TO:

135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
e-mail: grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm

721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145

150 1ST AVENUE NE
SUITE 325
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

May 11, 2010

REPLY TO:

103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860

210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657

131 WEST 3RD STREET
SUITE 180
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1419
(563) 322-4331

307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

The Honorable Hilda Solis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Solis:

In January, I wrote to inform you of the impending closure by Smithfield Foods of the John Morrell pork slaughter and processing facility in Sioux City, Iowa. This closure has resulted in the loss of nearly 1,500 jobs. As I mentioned in my previous letter, the size and scope of this layoff, during this already slow economic period, will have a major impact on the economy of Sioux City and the neighboring areas.

I was pleased to receive your letter and your commitment to make every effort to help workers dislocated from their jobs and to help prepare these workers for new job opportunities. You also indicated that should the layoffs overwhelm the formula resources available for the Sioux City region, you would provide fair and prompt consideration of a National Emergency Grant application.

I'm writing you today to make you aware of a National Emergency Grant application that was recently submitted to the Department of Labor to provide additional resources to respond to this closure. For your benefit, I've enclosed a copy of the application. A significant number of the dislocated workers have expressed a willingness to utilize these services to aid in their re-employment. I'm hopeful that the Department of Labor can quickly consider this NEG application. These funds will be critical in helping these dislocated workers improve their skills and increase their employability.

Again, I am grateful for your attention to this matter and I urge your quick action on the pending National Emergency Grant request.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

RANKING MEMBER,
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:
BUDGET
JUDICIARY
AGRICULTURE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS