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NOMINATION OF HON. THOMAS C. DORR, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

HEARING

[BEFORE THE]

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

APRIL 27, 2005

Printed for the use of the Committee on Governmental Affairs

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NOMINATION OF HON. THOMAS C. DORR TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005,

U.S. SENATE,,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:37 a.m., in room 328A, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Saxby Chambliss, [Chairman of the Committee], presiding.

Present or submitting a statement: Senators Chambliss, Coleman, Crapo, Grassley, Harkin, Nelson and Salazar.

STATEMENT OF HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM GEORGIA, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order and we are pleased to be here this morning to welcome the President's choice for Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, Mr. Thomas Dorr of Iowa.

Mr. Dorr, welcome to the committee this morning.

This will be the second hearing for Mr. Dorr. The first hearing occurred on March 6, 2002, and everybody should have a copy of the transcript of that hearing before them, as well as the subsequent questions proposed by members of the committee and the answers thereto.

I believe Mr. Dorr is well-qualified for the position that he is being nominated for by the President. The rural development mission for the Department of Agriculture is extremely important. My colleagues and I have highlighted the need to provide new economic opportunities for farmers and ranchers across the United States. Rural America has been at a crossroads for some time. The old ways of doing business in farm country are not quite applicable to the information age and modern agricultural markets.

Having practiced law in South Georgia for over 26 years, I am intimately familiar with the challenges facing farmers and ranchers every day. We need leadership at the Department that can bring real-world experience to Government programs. Mr. Dorr is a powerful thinker and he has already demonstrated his ability to bring sound and well-established business principles to USDA.

Mr. Dorr, I believe you have been at USDA now for the last 30 months, both as a recess appointee and most recently as an adviser to the Secretary.

The position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development has been vacant for some time. It is simply unacceptable in my view to let such a critical mission area remain open while Congress and this committee spend time on past issues that will have little or no relevance to the duties of the position. In the meantime, housing, business, telecommunications and utilities programs are without consistent and determined leadership.

I believe the President has made a fine choice in Mr. Dorr. This committee has already held an exhaustive hearing in March of 2002, and the witness has spent more than 4 hours testifying and additional hours answering written questions. We know more about Thomas Dorr now than probably any nominee that has come before this committee. I believe we should move forward and confirm Mr. Dorr.

Since working at the Department Mr. Dorr has been a leader at rural development and an important adviser to Secretaries Veneman and Johanns. In his time at USDA Mr. Dorr has focused on outcomes rather than outputs, improved outreach and employee customer service, and enhanced the business practices of the cooperative programs. Mr. Dorr understands the needs of rural America because he is from rural America.

We must complete this process expeditiously. Senators must and should be heard regarding their concerns, and substantive information should be brought before the committee for consideration.

I look forward to the proceedings and will look upon any new information with interest.

Having said that, I also believe that the job Mr. Dorr has done at the Department since being nominated by the President 4 years ago is certainly more important than events from 10 years ago that have been thoroughly investigated, not only by this committee but by the USDA Inspector General.

Mr. Dorr, welcome again to the committee. We look forward to your testimony.

I would now like to ask my good friend, the distinguished ranking Democratic member of the committee, Senator Harkin, if he has any opening remarks?

STATEMENT OF HON. TOM HARKIN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IOWA, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Senator HARKIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you for holding this hearing today, and thank you for the courtesies that you have shown not only to me but to our side of the aisle.

This hearing fulfills our committee responsibility to review nominees carefully. It is no secret that I have major concerns about this nominee, and I intend to inquire into these matters at this hearing. You are correct, we had an extensive hearing record in March of 2002. However, there had been subsequent letters and findings and things that have not been put in the record which I will put in the record during this hearing today.

Mr. Chairman, I regret very much that so many problems have arisen regarding the nomination of a fellow Iowan. This is not a joyful thing for me to do, especially when it is a fellow Iowan and especially when I know that my colleague, Senator Grassley, is a strong supporter of this nominee, and I assume a friend of this nominee, and Senator Grassley knows I have the highest esteem and friendship toward him, and so this is not something that I take any joy in doing. However, I feel that we do have a responsibility to inquire into some of these matters, and I will explain that further as we go along. Just as it would be for anyone, it is a matter of real pride for me when anyone from my State has been nominated to a high position in our Federal Government. Regardless of party, in the 20 years that I have been in the Senate I have never opposed an Iowan who has been nominated to serve in any administration here in Washington. This is the first one.

The Under Secretary for Rural Development is critically important, as you said, Mr. Chairman, to family size farms and ranches and to smaller communities all across America. The responsibilities include helping build water and wastewater facilities, financing decent affordable housing—I will repeat that—financing decent affordable housing, supporting electric power and rural businesses such as cooperatives. They also include promoting community development, helping to boost economic growth and create jobs and improve the quality of life in rural America.

Therefore, I am concerned about Mr. Dorr's comments regarding his vision of agriculture with 225,000–acre mega-farms consisting of three computer-linked pods, or criticizing the failure of Iowa to move aggressively toward very large, vertically integrated hog production facilities. These are on the record and we will get into those also.

Mr. Dorr made questionable comments about ethnic diversity that have yet to be fully explained. The person in the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development must also be responsive and sensitive to the demands of serving America's very diverse rural citizens and communities. That requirement for the job cannot be over-emphasized in a department that has been plagued with civil rights abuses of both employees and clients. I am troubled that the nominee misrepresented the farming relationship between Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Company and two family trusts, and that, at least to this Senator's observation, he has been unwilling to fully explain this complicated farming arrangement.

As Secretary Veneman wrote to me in 2002, quote, "Any person who serves this Nation should live by the highest of standards," end quote. That is why I am concerned about Mr. Dorr's financial dealings with USDA.

I guess bottom line my concern is that what kind of signal does this send to farmers and ranchers, people in rural America who may partake of the many varied programs that the Department of Agriculture has, whether it is deficiency payment programs or any of the myriad of rural development programs? What does it say to them if someone misrepresented their farming operation in order to avoid payment limitations? What does it say to them if this person is then elevated to one of the highest positions in our Department of Agriculture, someone whose family had to pay back almost

$34,000 in deficiency payments? As I said, basically, I guess that is my bottom line concern, what signal does that send?

As I said earlier, I intend to inquire into those areas that have concerned me. Perhaps today Mr. Dorr will be able to enlighten me and the rest of the committee about his vision, his tolerance and his integrity.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Harkin.

Now I will turn to Senator Grassley for an introduction of Mr. Dorr.

STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IOWA

Senator GRASSLEY. I had the privilege of introducing Tom, and I am very glad to do that, and particularly want to thank him for his willingness to serve the people of this country again, particularly considering the controversy that evolved during his first nomination.

Thank you, Tom, for your continued willingness to do good for our country.

Tom is a fourth generation dirt-under-the-fingernails family farmer. He has also been a small businessman and understands the demands and challenges of doing business in rural America. He has been a community leader, as evidenced by being chairman of the board of the Heartland Care Center, a cooperative care center there in Marcus. Tom was instrumental in starting the Iowa Corn Grower's Association, moving to leadership roles in the National Corn Grower's Association. Tom served on the board of the Chicago Federal Reserve, and has also served on the board governing our three State universities, the Board of Regents of the State of Iowa, one of the most prestigious jobs in our State and one where Senator Harkin's wife has now been appointed to a very hard job to do, very little reward for it, but a great opportunity to make a difference to the people of our State.

I also want to thank Tom for his deference to me on our disagreement in this nomination and the respectful way in which he has responded to our differences, or at least not make a big deal out of our differences. Thank you, Tom.

Now, Tom Dorr's leadership ability has been demonstrated and utilized to the benefit of his community and our State time and time again. A family man, married to Ann for 35 years, son and married daughter and granddaughter living in Iowa. He has the same desire we do as Senators, to improve the economy of rural America so his family can have all the benefits of the quality of life that rural America brings.

Tom has the financial expertise and business savvy required to run an organization as large as the complicated USDA Rural Development. This agency is basically a large bank, after all, with loan portfolio of $90 billion. That is as big as Wells Fargo, Chase Manhattan and bigger than most banks in America. This agency has 7,000 employees located in 800 offices. Not just any person can move from the farm to take over an organization of this size, but Tom Dorr did run this organization for 6 months, from August 2002 until December 2003. From the stack of letters that I have

received, he did it very well. He did it so well that Secretary Veneman retained him as Senior Adviser when his recess term expired, and assigned him additional duties in other areas.

Because of his recess appointment we have a unique opportunity to examine his track record. He served 15 months Under Secretary of Rural Development. I have heard from many people at USDA about his accomplishments. This was not only Secretary Veneman, but also career staff and groups who originally had concerns. They talk about his leadership, his vision, his intellect, and most importantly, his commitment to rural America. When I hear of the comments like this from peers and those who work for him, we should all take particular note.

Let me describe a few of the results that have been brought to my attention.

No. 1. He expedited the release of 762 million of water and wastewater infrastructure funds provided in the 2002 Farm bill, and he did that in just 3 months.

No. 2. He led the effort to complete the rulemaking process and order $1–1/2 billion of broadband program could begin taking applications this year. He believes that if Americans are to live locally and compete globally, that it is imperative to wire the country for technology access as it was to electrify it 60 years ago.

No. 3. In order to facilitate, review an announcement of $37 million of value-added development grants, he is using private sector resources to expedite the process.

Four. In order to deliver financial grants authorized by the Delta Regional Authority, he helped develop and get signed a memorandum of understanding between Rural Development and Delta Regional Authority. This will Rural Development to assist in delivering joint projects at no added cost to Delta Regional.

Five. He facilitated the developments of a memorandum of understanding signed by Secretary Veneman and Secretary Martinez, between Department of Agriculture and HUD, that focused on better serving housing and infrastructure needs.

Six. He has developed a series of initiatives with HUD that will allow Rural Development to more cost effectively meet the housing needs of rural America. These will allow the Department to provide greater access to housing for all rural America, but especially minority rural Americans in the fulfillment of the President's housing initiative.

He has initiated a review of multi-family housing programs. This has included the hiring of an outside contractor to conduct comprehensive property assessments to evaluate the physical condition marketing positions and operational status of more than 17,000 properties USDA has financed, while determining how best to meet the needs of low-income citizens in rural America.

He has initiated a major outreach program to ensure USDA Rural Development programs are more easily made available to all qualified individuals, communities and codified organizations. This marketing and branding initiative has also played an important role in changing the attitude of employees to concentrate on customer service and proactive outreach with emphasis upon reaching out to minorities.

Although this is an incomplete list of accomplishments, it is easy to set that Mr. Dorr did a great job in the short 15 months he served Rural Development. Clearly on paper Tom did a great job.

Let me read a few comments from folks who worked with Tom. First, Mortgage Bankers Association. Quote, "We support Mr. Dorr's nomination as Under Secretary of Rural Development because we have found him to be an engaged leader with true commitment to housing and community development needs in rural America." This organization certainly is able to recognize if anyone has the ability to understand the financial issues and have the skill needed to run this agency.

The next quote is from the Council of Affordable Rural Housing. Quote, "On behalf of our members throughout the country we're writing you today in support of the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr to be Under Secretary. There is a need for strong leadership and determination to forge long-term solutions preserving this important investment in rural America." That is Robert Rice, Council of Affordable Rural Housing.

I have many more letters, probably 50 or more from organizations all across the country asking us to confirm Mr. Dorr. In addition, I have a letter signed by many of the leading national agricultural organizations such as the Corn Growers and American Farm Bureau.

There is another issue that I feel compelled to address, and this is during the 2002 hearing and in the floor debate in the Senate. Concerns were expressed regarding Tom's position on minority issues. I would like to reference letters for the record this morning that would alleviate lingering concerns. I have several letters from minority organization leaders expressing their support for Tom Dorr's confirmation.

The first letter is from the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, and you would recall that they had a representative testify against Mr. Dorr in the 2002 hearing. Quote, "I am personally endorsing Tom Dorr's nomination because of his deep interest in rural development. He has made several visits to the communities when in the Federation's network, and has a great understanding of the needs of rural poor communities. He is a man for the job." Ralph Paige, Executive Director.

Another letter to quote from, this is from the Northeast Louisiana Black Farmers and Landowners Association, Dexter Davis, President. "Mr. Dorr has made great accomplishments in the position and has earned the trust from rural Americans to carry out his mission."

From Calvin King, President and CEO of Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation, quote, "I met Tom Dorr in Washington, DC when he was serving as the Acting Under Secretary and was impressed with his patience for small farmers. Quite frankly, when I first met Tom I was not expecting him to be particularly supportive of our needs, but over the years we have worked together, have found him to be a great ally and tireless fighter for the causes that we both support."

From Fernando Burkette, Black Farmers and Agricultural Association, Arkansas Chapter. Quote, "We hold Mr. Dorr as a valuable asset to our organization and his future. He is one of the individ-

uals who has played a major role in bridging the gap between the small limited resource and minority producers for our organization and the USDA."

I have many more others that I could read, but you get the point. Thankfully, these organizations were very concerned to come forward after they had a chance to get to know and work with Tom.

With your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, I want to also read portions of a letter to Mr. Dorr by Dr. Dennis Keeney, former head of the Leopold Center at Iowa State University. Many of you will recall that Dr. Keeney was asked to testify against Mr. Dorr in 2002. Quote: "I write to apologize for appearing at your hearing in 2002. It was something I should have said no to right off, but did not. Then it drug on and I had to go through with the appearance or lose face. That still did not make it right. It was during the reading of this book, The Natural Misunderstood Presidency of Bill Clinton, that I realized that I had become part of a mud-slinging character assassination. This is not the type of legacy that I would like to leave. You have been misunderstood and made a poster child for big agriculture. I am sure that that has not particularly bothered you, but I have not been proud of my little part in painting that picture." Dr. Dennis Keeney, Emeritus Professor, Iowa State. I thank Dr. Keeney for sharing his letter.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to ask that this committee set aside the politics of the past and concentrate on the real issues affecting rural America and that Tom Dorr would be confirmed for this important job. We have neglected our duty of going 4 years without having a confirmed Under Secretary. To think that while all this debate was going on in the Senate we have had four different individuals serving in the Under Secretary position. None of them were confirmed by the Senate. This is not a good way to run a business or a large complicated agency as important to the States as the U.S. Department of Rural Development.

Tom has been under the microscope since his original nomination, and everyone who has looked in the lens has offered praise for his work and accomplishments. Thankfully, we do not need to speculate about whether Tom would do a good job or not. Tom has already demonstrated how he can do it and what he has done, and will likely continue to do the same great job as a confirmed Under Secretary. How often do we actually get to judge a nominee by their proficiency in the job? Tom is a sure thing. Rural America is regaining its economic, social and cultural momentum. It would be a shame to deprive it of the leadership that he can give at this critical juncture.

We have a unique second chance here today, Mr. Chairman. I hope that we will set aside our differences, do what is best for our rural citizens, our State and our country. it is an honor for me to introduce Mr. Dorr to you as the new chairman of the committee, Senator Chambliss.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Grassley.

Mr. Dorr, it goes without saying that to be introduced by one of the more respected members not just of this committee but of the U.S. Senate says an awful lot about you and your appointment to this position.

Let me say, before we turn to Mr. Dorr, that we have received a letter dated April 26, 2005, and let me just read this letter. It says, "As Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we write with concern to the nomination of Mr. Thomas Dorr for Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. Attached please find copies of letters sent last year by members of each caucus. The concerns raised in these letters are yet to be adequately addressed. We ask that these issues be raised and probed prior to confirmation of Mr. Dorr."

We are going to put this letter with the attached letters in the record unless there is objection. Hearing none, they will be so put in the record.

[The letters sent last year by members of the Congressional Black and Congressional Hispanic Caucus can be found in the appendix on page 41.]

The CHAIRMAN. In addition we have received letters from 85 organizations, farm organizations around the country and 14 individuals supporting the nomination of Mr. Dorr. Likewise, we will put this list of the 85 organizations along with their letters, and the 14 letters from individuals supporting Mr. Dorr in the record unless there is objection. Hearing none, they will be so put in the record.

[The letters from 85 organizations and 14 individuals supporting Mr. Dorr can be found in the appendix on page 49.]

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Dorr, would you please stand and raise your right hand? Do you swear that the testimony you are about to present is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. DORR. I do.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Let me ask you the mandatory question before we turn to you for your testimony. Do you agree that if confirmed you will appear before any duly constituted committee of Congress if asked?

Mr. DORR. Yes, I will.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Dorr, thank you very much again for being here today. We look forward to your testimony and you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF HON. THOMAS C. DORR, OF IOWA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

Mr. DORR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Chambliss, Senator Harkin, members of the committee, I thank you for this opportunity to again come before you. Senator Grassley, I am most appreciative of your kind and gracious introduction. I am deeply honored by the nomination of the President to serve as the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

I have tremendous respect for the mission of Rural Development and deep admiration for its employees. It is with a great deal of humility that I appear before you today in this confirmation process. I would like to take just a brief moment to introduce my wife of nearly 34 years, Ann, right behind me. Our daughter Allison Kleis, her husband Karlton, our granddaughter Emerson, as well

as our son Andrew, all of Des Moines, were unable to be with us. My father is deceased and although my 83–year-old mother Margaret Dorr would like to have been here, her health precludes that. However, my parents, my wife, and children's guidance, support and love has truly been instrumental in my desire to both continue to serve rural America and to be with you here today.

Since May of 2001, I have been honored to serve as a consultant and Senior Advisor to Secretary Veneman and now Secretary Johanns. President Bush appointed me to serve as Under Secretary for Rural Development from August of 2002 through early December of 2003, and I deeply appreciate this decision to nominate me once again for this important position. I take the confidence that he has shown in me with the utmost seriousness. Prior to serving at the Department of Agriculture I was a full-time farmer and businessman from Marcus, located in Northwest Iowa.

My great-grandfather, a German immigrant, was the first homesteader in Amherst Township in Cherokee County. A single large tree marks the spot near the creek where he built his first sod home. When I visit that tree I am continually reminded of how much agriculture has changed. Farming is the first and noblest of professions, but it is one that is constantly changing. You are constantly reminded that many forces in farming are outside of your control and this uncertainty has made it necessary for farmers to develop relationships with their families and neighbors in order to weather these many challenges.

My father was an early innovator who tried to find new ways to manage risk through diversification. He was interested in value-added concepts before they were described as such. He and my uncle owned and operated grain elevators and feed mills. They also had hatcheries, grow-out facilities, and even a poultry processing plant that allowed them to slaughter and ship frozen turkeys throughout the country. Yet, because of the ever-changing economic landscape, in many cases they were forced to liquidate these businesses during the 1950's and the early 1960's.

I am the eldest son in a family of 9 children. My father and I were especially close, so upon my return to the farm in 1971, my dad and my uncle entrusted me to oversee the farming operation. They placed some of their land in trusts in order to provide for both my mother and aunt, as well as pay college expenses for the children of both families. This was a tremendous responsibility, and one that has not been without its challenges, but it has not been easy to fulfill the parents' wishes while also trying to respond to the needs of 8 brothers, sisters—8 loving brothers and sisters and 5 cousins.

In my statement to this committee 3 years ago I took the time to outline my background in farming and involvement in a variety of public service venues. Today though I'd like to share with you more about my passion for rural America and what I have learned during my tenure at USDA.

First, during the period in which I served as Under Secretary, I was blessed to lead a talented and dedicated staff of professionals located at not just USDA's Rural Development headquarters here in Washington, DC, but in our service center in St. Louis and in

our 47 State offices and subsequently 800 local offices located across the country.

It was gratifying, it was truly gratifying to watch these energetic and committed people work together as a team. We made great progress in expanding our outreach to qualified individuals and communities, making them aware of, and assisting them with our many USDA Rural Development programs. We put a special emphasis on minority outreach, and we began to tackle some very serious program issues that were there when we arrived.

Our overriding goal during my time leading USDA Rural Development was to be the ADVOCATE for rural America, and we took that objective very, very seriously. I witnessed many examples of leadership and creativity from our team and our constituents as well, who worked with individual communities, which often helped facilitate and bring together a multitude of multiple funding sources such as Federal, State, nonprofit, local and private.

I would like this morning just to share briefly with you two examples of the many that I witnessed in person of the successes that we encountered at Rural Development.

The first is the Guadalupe Garcia family, who were part of a self-help housing program in Anthony, New Mexico, which is a small Colonias community just outside El Paso, Texas. Mr. Garcia is a machine operator with Tyson Foods. He and his wife I believe had two children. I happened to be fortunate to be there when they moved into their new home for the first time, a home with running water and central air and heating. It was truly a very emotional event, not just for them, but for all of us who were able to be there.

However, the unique aspect of this program is that it was a collaborative effort between the community, between USDA Rural Development, the financial institution and the Garcias and a number of others involved in that self-help project. The remarkable thing was that a minimum of Federal investment was required, although there was plenty of sweat equity provided on the part of the Garcias. The result was a safe secure house, a stronger family that ultimately becomes part of a very viable rural community.

The second example, although a bit more traditional, is equally unique, and that was my ability to attend the grand opening of something called Meadow Brook Farms, which was a producer-owned and value-added cooperative that was involved in pork slaughter—it is involved in pork slaughtering and process in Rantoul, Illinois.

Starting back in 1998, James Burke, now the CEO of the company, and Melvin Weck, who is the Executive Vice President of their IT operation and is also a lifelong farmer of the area, were part of a uniquely organized producer cooperative that worked with local government, bankers and the State and national USDA Rural Development staff, amongst others, to put together this project. The effort has resulted in a facility that in 2004, its first year of operation, processed nearly 690,000 hogs, utilizing a state-of-the-art animal ID and tracking system developed by these producers. The 200 producer members have a better market for their quality hogs, are building equity in the new venture, and have created over 300 new jobs in the rural community.

These two examples demonstrate the great work this Agency can accomplish with the support from the administration and Congress, plus that of a motivated and well-trained staff working in conjunction with the local communities all across rural America.

We are entering an exciting time in rural America. In my view many—in many areas the out migration trends are in fact being reversed. We are seeing more young people staying in their hometowns to raise their families and care for aging parents, and boomers are moving back to smaller towns for the quality of life.

We are also seeing significant gains in value-added agriculture, allowing smaller operations and co-ops to successfully compete in niche and emerging markets. This development has not only raised income for area farmers but also for many local investors. At the same time it has created new jobs in these communities and provided additional incentives for young people to not just stay but frequently move back to rural America.

There are plenty of exciting—there are plenty of other exciting developments on the horizon for rural America. The list is virtually endless, limited only by our creativity and our dedication to developing significant new income sources for America's farmers, ranchers and local business people, which ultimately provide jobs and a better quality of life for those who choose to live in our rural communities.

I understand fully how important USDA Rural Development programs are to the citizens in your States. This wonderful Agency has the tools to impact so many lives in a positive way at a very low cost to the taxpayer.

If confirmed, I pledge to work tirelessly with you to make the vision of rural rejuvenation a reality. In that I suspect I will be, second only to Secretary Johanns, the most energetic champion at USDA for the future of rural communities.

I thank you for holding this hearing and your consideration of my nomination, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Dorr.

Let me start out this morning by asking you a question that I do not expect you to give me a detailed answer on relative to your farming operation. During the past 4 years and in the 2002 hearing, much has been made of your farming operation and your farm structure. I expect you to be thoroughly examined about some aspects of those today. I think it would be helpful if we just go back to the basics, and let you have the opportunity to explain, as you have somewhat alluded to in your statement, as to how your farming operation was structured. How your operation related to the family trust that will be referred to later in the questioning.

Mr. DORR. Thank you, Senator Chambliss. When I moved back to the family operation in 1971 it was composed of something in the neighborhood of 1,000 or 1,100 acres along with some grain operations as well. They were owned and operated jointly by my father and uncle.

From that point on I was engaged in the business, starting as an employee, as a hand, ultimately evolving into more of a manager, and finally the full-time operator/manger of the operation, taking care of all of the essence of all the business opportunities.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Dorr, what timeframe are we talking about here?

Mr. DORR. This evolved from 19—that evolution was from 1971 through say 1975 to 1978.

The CHAIRMAN. OK.

Mr. DORR. In late 1976 my father and my uncle, in their concern to maintain the integrity of the family farm, embarked on a series of estate planning initiatives, and the outgrowth of that was the formation of two family trusts that have been discussed extensively in 2002 and since. These two family trusts were designed as generation-skipping trusts to maintain the integrity of the family operation for anyone who cared to stay and operate the family farm.

Those were the only two trusts outside of others that evolved from the process of probating the estate that were involved and that were developed. There were a couple of other family corporations that had been there for a number of years, and we grew the farm then from the early 1970's to around 2,200 acres of family owned property by the time I left in 2001, and we were renting and custom-farming other properties as well.

The CHAIRMAN. To your knowledge did the FSA, or what I guess then was ASCS maybe, USDA Inspector General's Office, or any other agency of the Federal Government ever accuse you of deliberately or knowingly falsifying documents or providing misleading information to the Federal Government, particularly to FSA?

Mr. DORR. No.

The CHAIRMAN. USDA Rural Development has a staff of more than 7,000. It has a $90 billion loan portfolio. As you have stated, it is the advocate for rural America. It is the venture capitalist, and it builds the infrastructure for businesses, hospitals, communities and families. It is a crucial mission at USDA. In your opinion what makes you qualified to be Under Secretary for Rural Development?

Mr. DORR. Senator, I left home in 1964, went to college, worked for a large corporation for about 3 years and returned to the family farm I believe in, as I said earlier, in 1971.

That experience in working on that farm, that grain company, growing up with it, working with a number of associates led me to then ultimately get involved because of my interest in the entirety of the rural community, and quite frankly, with a lot of urging from my parents, who believed strongly that we needed to give back to our communities, to get involved with a number of things that migrated from the county level, County Board of Review, all the way up to the Iowa Corn Growers, to the National Corn Growers.

These iterations of experiences gave me a fairly significant insight I believe into what I felt were a number of the unexplored opportunities that could positively impact rural America. With that insight and those opportunities and those experiences over about 30 years, I felt that I had the qualities and the qualifications to facilitate the President's agenda serving in this position.

The CHAIRMAN. For nearly 70 years Rural Development and its predecessor agencies have been providing assistance to rural America. In each succeeding farm bill we provide additional resources and emphasis on Rural Development. Clearly it is an important mission area at USDA. What is your vision for Rural Development

over the next few years, and if confirmed, what will you do to make that vision a reality?

Mr. DORR. That is a terrific question and I appreciate it. The opportunity in rural America to increase—the vision at Rural Development is very simple, and this was enunciated shortly after I became the Under Secretary, and that was to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. There has been a significant transition taking place throughout rural America that makes these opportunities possible. We can improve the quality of life because Rural Development essentially is what amounts to a venture capital bank for all of rural America.

When I got there they had a loan portfolio of about $60 billion. Today it's $90 billion. The thing though that makes this all more likely to happen is that first of all we have some significant people in this organization. We have people of great caliber and integrity, and the interesting thing about it is that these are people that are State and local driven. They understand what's going on at the local level, so what happens is we drive ideas from the bottom up.

Second, the programs at Rural Development run the gamut from the traditional REC, rural water and waste programs to the very unique new IT. We have information technology systems, venture capital, renewable energy. There are a whole array of opportunities that this rural resource base and the people in it have an opportunity to participate in with great economic opportunity.

Finally, we have developed an outreach program that was designed to make certain that we reached out and identified those who really were qualified for our programs, both as individuals and communities, CBOs and others, that were not accessing them at the time, and this outreach program did a couple of things. It increased our understanding of our system. It made us more available, and it clearly energized those who were benefiting from us.

Finally, tying all that together, what I found was that if we paid close attention to the President's management agenda, really zeroed in on performance budget integration, we could develop systems to very quickly respond to the changes that were taking place in rural America as they accommodated these programs. There is a great deal of opportunity out there. I've probably gone on a little bit long. These programs give us a great deal of flexibility.

The CHAIRMAN. That obviously comes from your heart too, Mr. Dorr, which is great to hear. Without question it can be said that when you look across America farming is farming irrespective of what part of the country you come from. Clearly there are differences in the methods of farming, there are different crops grown in different areas of the country. You come from the midwest part of the Country where you grow a lot of soybeans and corn. Senator Coleman comes from an area where there is a lot of dairy, a lot of wheat grown. Senator Salazar comes from an area where a lot of wheat, maybe a lot of livestock is produced. I come from an area where there's a lot of row crops and a lot of vegetables grown. Clearly there are a lot of differences there that somebody at USDA has to look at from the aspect that farming is farming irrespective of what part of the country that it is located.

Assuming you are confirmed in this position, are you going to be looking at farming as farming all across America, not with respect

to your personal interest relative to any particular crop, or any particular section of the country? Are you willing to treat all farmers, all agri-business people and the implementation of Rural Development provisions of the Farm bill fairly and equally?

Mr. DORR. Senator, absolutely, and my record of the 15 or 16 months I served as Under Secretary would more than justify that.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator COLEMAN. [Off microphone]—without objection. I fully support this nomination. I have heard from all my ag groups and rural advocates and they support it, and I just wanted that to be on the record before I leave.

The CHAIRMAN. Certainly, without objection, Senator Coleman.

We are going to proceed a little bit differently. Senator Harkin and I have agreed that he will have an extensive opportunity to examine Mr. Dorr, and that being the case, rather than giving Senator Harkin 5 minutes, 10 minutes, whatever he might want to start with, he is in agreement to allowing other Senators to ask questions, since you may have to be somewhere else today.

We will move to Senator Salazar first for any questions that you might have.

Senator SALAZAR. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman amendment Ranking Member Harkin, and thank you for your leadership on agricultural issues and the leadership of this committee.

I also want to say to you, Mr. Dorr, thank you for your service to our country and for coming before this committee this morning. I must say that it is a mark of tenacity to come back because you feel so passionately about the job and for rural America, and for that, I acknowledge and laud you for those efforts.

You and I had a good meeting last week. I very much appreciated the conversation that we had where you stated some of the things that you have talked about this morning, the importance of rural America and getting a revitalized rural America. We also spoke about my own maiden speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate, where I talked about the forgotten America.

I am open to the possibility of voting for you as this nomination moves forward. I do however want to go through this process and to hear the concerns that Senator Harkin and others have stated, and to also study the responses that you have.

Let me just say at the outset that I asked for a letter from you that would articulate your vision and your program for what you wanted to accomplish in rural America in this position that you have been nominated for. I was disappointed that I did not get that letter on Monday. My staff called on Monday and again yesterday, and I still have not received that letter. The one thing that I will ask of you, Mr. Dorr, is that as we work together on this mutual agenda of rural America, I want to have the kind of relationship with you where if I request something, I want some response. At the end of the day this is a joint undertaking between the Executive and the legislative branches of Government. I would appreciate getting the letter that I requested by the end of the day today.

Let me also say that I have read some of the materials, I am not as versed as the people who have been on this committee before and who have gone through these hearings in the past. I am cer-

tain that Senator Harkin, in his hour of inquiry will touch base on many questions.

There is one question in particular though that I want to ask. That is a question relating to the comments that were made on diversity in a speech that you gave. This is from a speech that I know has been talked about—I have a copy of the transcription—in which you apparently were talking to a group of farmers.

The comment that I have here is from when you made the statement that there are, I quote, "...if they're not the three then two of these are the three—and would be Carroll County, Sioux County and Lyon County. You will notice when you get to looking at them that they are not particularly diverse, at least not ethnically diverse. They are very diverse in their economic growth, but they have been very focused, very nondiverse in their ethnic background and their religious background." "There's obviously something there that has enabled them to succeed and to succeed very well."

I know very well, having been involved as a prosecutor, having worked on a lot of issues, and having been in the public world, that sometimes statements are taken out of context. I have not read the letters that Senator Chambliss spoke about from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus or the Congressional Black Caucus, but I would like you to talk to us about your own views of diversity and your own views of inclusion of people from all backgrounds in the things that you do and how you will proceed on that issue in the future, looking ahead, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the position that you have been nominated for.

Mr. DORR. Sure. First of all, let me simply say that I do believe the letter was delivered if not on Monday, yesterday. I apologize if it wasn't there on Monday, but I believe the letter was delivered yesterday.

Second, those comments that you referred to were not with a group of farmers. It was actually a the university event that I was asked to be at, and review a proposal relative to a grant of money that had been given to the Agronomy Department of Iowa State University.

Third, as you've clearly enunciated, they were in my view taken out of context. Probably it's important to reflect as much as anything on the opportunities that I've had to work with a number of minority organizations, sustainable small farm groups and others since I've been here serving at USDA's Rural Development. No. 1, that I related very well. I have a—contrary to what perhaps the public perception may be, a very, very big heart when it comes to working with people who have frequently been less fortunate or had less opportunity than I have. I have been a very blessed guy. I know that. I've been a very fortunate fellow to have a loving family by and large and many opportunities.

One of the things that I've encountered at Rural Development is there are a lot of old ongoing issues that everyone is struggling with, very honestly so. One of the things that I found, as an example, and as a result of attending a listening session at Alcorn State University, this wasn't where it first came up but it was where a lot of these things galvanized, is the access to credit issues and a number of other things that make it difficult for many in the minority community to actually aggregate equity.

One of the problems is that there are very few African-American appraisers or title company owners or surveyors or others who are able to actively work with members in their community that they trust.

Senator SALAZAR. Let me if I may, because I do not want to take up more time here than—my red light is already on and the chairman is being very indulgent in my time here.

Let me put a more focal point on my question. For me this America of ours has been very much an America in progress, from the Civil War, to the 13th and 14th Amendments, to Brown v. the Board of Education and to getting where we are today. We are not a perfect country, but we certainly are a country that has made tremendous progress. I want you to specifically answer this question for me. Take the African-American farming community, describe to me in a couple of minutes what your agenda would do to make sure that the African-American farming community receives the benefits of the work that you would be doing at USDA? Focus it on African-Americans.

Mr. DORR. We would work within the framework of the National Centers of Excellence, the 1890's Institutions and the other organizations that work with USDA to make sure that we do a good job of making certain they have the tools to participate in the American dream, that they have the ability to leverage their equity resources and other things that they utilize to grow and build their communities, their families, their farms, and build and own their own homes.

Senator SALAZAR. Now, spin that out a little bit in terms of the specific action items that you would take as the Under Secretary of Agriculture to accomplish that vision. You started by saying access to capital——

Mr. DORR. Access to capital. We have to do a better job of facilitating the development and training of folks within those communities who have the ability to be surveyors, be people that the community trust and can work with so that they can build equity. We'll have to look at all of the programs that we have available and make sure that they are as friendly and user friendly as possible within that community.

Rural Development does not directly participate in farm program activities at USDA, but in the context of our community development programs and other things, we will make sure that they function and function well within those communities.

Senator SALAZAR. Let me ask you with respect to staff and diversity of staff within USDA. What kinds of efforts would you undertake to ensure that there is diversity within the staff? Is that an important issue to you? Is it something that you would aggressively undertake? Also what have you done in the 3 years that you have served there as Senior Advisor to achieve diversity?

Mr. DORR. Diversity has always been a top agenda item within the Department. I've worked very, very closely with the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Vernon Parker, and a number of others on these issues. I see no reason why we wouldn't continue to do that.

Senator SALAZAR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Dorr, for your responses.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Grassley.

Senator GRASSLEY. President Bush has nominated you to be Under Secretary for this Agency three different times. During your time as nominee you have endured intense public scrutiny of your farming operation and statements about you as a private citizen. Yet you sit before us again today responding openly and honestly to every question that is asked of you. Personally I have no doubts that you are the right person for the position, and I applaud President Bush for his persistence in continuing to nominate you. After all this, I am compelled to ask why do you want to be in this position?

[Laughter.]

Mr. DORR. I've even asked myself that sometimes.

I deliberated that at length, Senator. I deliberated at length with my wife and my family. As I said in my comment to Senator Salazar earlier, I've been a very blessed guy, had a terrific, terrific father and mother, terrific wife, and I've had a number of terrific experiences, and the thing that I know more than anything else is that rural America has had some difficulties. Rural America's been in a real funk since the late 1970's and emerged into the ag crisis of the 1980's. In the late 1990's and the early—in the early 2000's and on through the 2000's it became abundantly clear that with the advent of technology, of bandwidth access, access to knowledge and information and capital, it was creating an untold number of new and undeveloped opportunities for those who live there, and quite frankly, in many cases, for people who I had run into, who were moving back into these areas.

In my view, particularly after driving to work every day in this moving parking lot in Washington, DC, it's clear to me that rural America and this evolving environment in which we have access to technology, when we have energy problems, we have access to renewable energy opportunities, and a whole host of things that only rural America truly has the ability to provide. It's too great an opportunity to pass up and not try to make sure that many of my fellow citizens in rural America can participate in this economic growth and activity. It's that simple. There's a lot of, a lot of hope out there and I want to be part of it.

Senator GRASSLEY. Let me ask you about a specific program and a specific problem. I need to compliment Senator Harkin for bringing this to my attention last night at a rural development conference or capitalization conference that he and I hosted. Senator Harkin mentioned that the Department has been slow allocating the $2 billion available for broadband and that there is still approximately one and six-tenths billion dollars at USDA. Could you please tell me what you would do as Under Secretary to ensure that this program is developed and managed to its full potential? I guess I would add to that, because Congress made a decision this money ought to be spent, and presumably it is not being spent. I rely upon Senator Harkin for that judgment, not my own. What would you do to get that money out?

Mr. DORR. Well, that's a good question. The 2002 Farm Bill was passed in June of—or May 1902, signed into law by the President May 1902. There was a very significant effort placed early on to conduct a field hearing to find out what sorts of things needed to

be addressed in the deployment of those funds and that technology and making access to that new program.

It's a unique program, and quite honestly, there have been a number of things that have occurred the last year that I frankly have not been involved in, not serving as the Under Secretary, not having any decisionmaking authority with regard to that. The thing that is important to remember in the broadband program is that it is unique, traditionally the rural utility system and the rural telecom programs were largely loans made to sole providers in rural areas on long-term assets, and those loans—there was a process developed and they understood those clearly. The technology involved in deploying broadband to do a couple of things, No. 1, get the money out quickly, and No. 2, make sure you don't make bad loans, and then ultimately have to deploy those resources on assets that frequently have life spans of only 5 years or on out to 30 years is a complex new way in which you have to deal with this matter.

If I am confirmed and had the ability to get engaged in this, I would frankly go to the outside, seek some outside expertise to help us get a better handle on how to analyze these loans so that we could deploy them in a more rapid and more effective and efficient manner, and yet maintain the integrity of the program.

Senator GRASSLEY. You are saying that if Congress makes a decision that this money ought to be spent, the only thing for not spending it would be to make sure that the loan was a wise loan. There is no philosophical opposition you have in this area of this money being used for this purpose.

Mr. DORR. None whatsoever. I'm probably as sold on technology as anyone.

Senator GRASSLEY. My last question then. The work of the Rural Housing Service is particularly important to me because I have seen the impact that single-family, multi-family and community facilities can have on individuals and communities in Iowa, as you know, Tom. One of my concerns has been the lack of solid information regarding multi-family housing portfolio. For many years it was clear that RHS was flying blind when it comes to portfolio. They could not tell us what types of housing were in the portfolio, and they could not verify the condition of the properties.

As Under Secretary you initiated a comprehensive property assessment to determine what needs to be done to maintain that portfolio and to protect the low-income tenants who live in those properties. From all accounts, this process has been successful, and an excellent example of your leadership. Could you tell us some detail as to how this all came about?

Mr. DORR. I will try to keep this brief. It was probably one of the most significant, the multi-family housing and rental assistance and farm labor housing programs, probably some of the most complex and significant issues that we had to deal with. I believe rental assistance is perhaps the largest line item budget item in the entirety of the USDA budget, as I've been informed.

The bottom line was that there had been a myriad of statutory and regulatory changes over a period of 20 years. Rental assistance was growing quite rapidly, and a couple of things were clear. No.

1, there was discussion about whether or not we need to save the program, and No. 2, how we were going to finance it.

After getting together with a number of the best and brightest in our multi-family group and organization throughout Rural Development, by bringing in some statewide leaders, I determined, in conjunction with task force that had helped me collect this information, that the best thing we could do was to go out and bring in two of the best multi-family housing consultants we could find, and we were able to do that.

In the course of that I gave them two charges—this was when I was serving as the Under Secretary—No. 1, find out whether or not we really need this program. I wanted to dispel that myth if there is a myth involved. No. 2, provide us with some answers in terms of how we revitalize the portfolio, how we go about revitalizing it in a cost effective manner.

Out of that evolved a comprehensive property assessment. The comprehensive property assessment showed that of the 455,000 units, there were 750,000 residents, that's less than three-tenths of 1 percent of the population. 75—the average income of the residents was $7,500. It was clear that we needed the properties. The properties had an average age of 26 years. On top of that we were having escalating rental assistance projects. We think—I believe, and I'm not sure where the Under Secretary, the Acting Under Secretary is relative to the decision, but we think we've identified a solution to essentially revitalize a $50 billion replacement cost portfolio for something less than $2 billion over a period of about 6, 7 years.

If that is what they ultimate decide to do at the Under Secretary's Office, we've done a remarkable job of revitalizing a portfolio and making—most importantly, protecting the tenants, and making available housing for those who can least afford it in rural America.

Senator SALAZAR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Nelson.

Senator NELSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I will do is I will just defer to the Ranking Member at this point.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Crapo.

Senator CRAPO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Dorr, we appreciate having you here and we appreciate all of the good work that you do.

Energy costs have a big impact on our economy, and you and I visited about this personally, but as you know, one of the provisions in the energy bill that is very important to me is the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grant Program. This program holds a tremendous potential to stimulate development of our farm energy sources. It also presents an opportunity to address environmental concerns, and in Idaho we are very excited about the potential in this program to help develop anaerobic digesters. Do you agree that this program can help develop energy sources, and also address environmental concerns at the same time? If so, would you commit to work with me to help find ways to address the anaerobic digester issue?

Mr. DORR. I would. I agree with your interpretation. I would be delighted to work with you.

Senator CRAPO. What are your thoughts about the implementation of this program, the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grant Program?

Mr. DORR. Like all of these new and innovative programs, they're somewhat complex, but the Department has done a good job of working with a multitude of agencies, and will continue to do that, and as a result can make these very effective programs over the long term.

Senator CRAPO. If you are confirmed, one of the things I want to do is be as effective as possible in leveraging resources, and it seems to me that this grant program is one of those. I guess I am basically just alerting you that I want to work closely with you on that and try to leverage resources to the maximum extent possible.

One other question: many of us on this panel have recognized the importance of value-added agriculture, and we included the Value-added Grant Program in the 2002 Farm Bill, which is another program which I strongly support. In your opening statement you mentioned that value-added agriculture will become an even more important part of the rejuvenation of rural America, and I would just like to ask you if you would expand on that a little bit.

Mr. DORR. Well, very quickly, the evolution of ethanol has shown that research and technology can do some amazing things with the natural resource base that we have in this country, and clearly as we grapple with the energy issues and other things, and we begin to look more deeply into this, it's very evident that technology has grown by leaps and bounds. Renewable bio-based energies, biodiesel, wind energy and a number of these offer three or four great opportunities for rural America to leverage their asset base, increase economic activity, improve the quality of life, build jobs, build equity, and it's clearly something, that if confirmed, I will continue to look at, and look at in a very—I would look at in a very aggressive manner.

Senator CRAPO. Thank you very much. That is all the questions I wanted to ask of you. Before I yield my time back, I just wanted to take this opportunity once again to thank you for the great service that you have already provided at the Department, and to tell you that you have a tremendous amount of support here in the Senate, and I look forward to working with you after you are confirmed.

Mr. DORR. Thank you very much.

Senator CRAPO. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Crapo.

We will now turn to Senator Harkin for questions.

Senator HARKIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Dorr, I just wanted to start off by referring to the question that was asked by Senator Salazar regarding diversity. Your response to his question regarding the statement you made at Iowa State University was that it was taken out of context.

Mr. DORR. That's correct.

Senator HARKIN. Well, I watched the tape. I watched the tape of that whole thing. A person right before you—no, it was not the one right before you, it was like maybe two before you, preceding the person that spoke before you—said something about diversity and had talked about the importance and the value to rural commu-

nities of supporting diversity. Your statement in that—when you made that statement about diversity, you seemed to be responding directly to this. A lot of times we look at patterns, Mr. Dorr. You just say you were taken out of context. What is the context?

First of all, as a member of the Board of Regents there was a big issue in Iowa about naming Iowa State University Stadium after Jack Trice. He was an African-American football player, and they wanted to name the stadium after him; students wanted to name the stadium after Jack Trice. There was a lot of heated debate about this at that time. It was finally decided to name the stadium after him. The Board of Regents voted on that. You voted against naming the stadium after Jack Trice.

Then we have the statement at Iowa State that Mr. Salazar—I am not going to read it again, it is in the record—when you said that there is something in these three counties that enable them to succeed. It may be their economic diversity but not their ethnic diversity. There is something there to that.

Last, you wrote a letter to me, and I am going to have more to say about this letter, but you wrote a letter to me on October 8th, 1999, in which you talked about a number of different things, but you said, "I'm sure my ranting won't change your approach to maintaining a constituency dependent on government revenue." I am reading your own words. "But should you decide to take a few side trips through the Iowa countryside, you will see an inordinate number of homes surrounded by 5 to 10 cars. The homes generally have a value of less than $10,000. This just confirms my 10–car, $10,000 home theory. The more you try to help, the more you hinder. The results are everywhere."

Now, Mr. Dorr, when you take all of those, you see a pattern and so I am not certain that it was taken out of context. People grow and develop and they change their minds about things. Certainly my own thinking on race relations and minorities has developed a lot since my upbringing in a small town in rural Iowa. I guess I was hoping to hear you say that perhaps your thinking had evolved and that perhaps those statements may have reflected an earlier mindset, but now maybe that mindset has changed. All I heard was it was just taken out of context.

Do you still maintain that all of the things I have said were just taken out of context?

Mr. DORR. Senator, we've gone through this at length earlier, much of this is in the record. The record that I've established and the opportunities that I've had to work within the minority community serving at Rural Development, and quite honestly prior to that in Iowa in a smaller way, and one must recognize that, as you've already indicated, Iowa has a very small minority population. I was quietly and privately before the events at Iowa State University and actually after that, attempting to find out why we were having difficulty placing slaughter plants in Iowa because of fears that they would be staffed by large numbers of hispanics.

I worked privately with a number of folks trying to figure out ways to help establish hispanic banks so the hispanic community would feel more comfortable in originating homeownership loans and increasing their ability to participate in the American dream.

My record at Rural Development, in working with a number of minority community and minority initiatives is well known. I don't know that I have to defend myself relative to my attitude toward race relations or my sensitivities toward minorities. I agree, when you grow up in a basically lily white State like Iowa you do evolve and change over a period of time. I was raised in a family, and quite frankly was taught generally speaking to be sensitive to everyone in every situation, and that's the way I've raised my family, that's the way I've tried to live my life. Again, I don't believe that those remarks at Iowa State University adequately reflect what was the context of that particular situation.

Senator HARKIN. Nor the comments you made in your letter to me about the $10,000 home and the 10–car—you said "reflects my theory." I asked you at the hearing 3 years ago about that, and I have examined the record on that, and I cannot find anything that really tells me what that theory is. "This just confirms my 10–car, $10,000 home theory." I read the record—I am sure you have too—and I said at the time, a lot of times poor people have a lot of cars around. I asked that question once, he says, "Well, I've got a lot of cars because I've got to junk one to get the other one running." They do not have good cars.

I am just wondering about the sensitivity to that in terms of the letter that you sent to me in 1999, and so I just ask, do you see how someone could interpret your remarks as insensitive? Do you have any comprehension that somebody might see this as being insensitive?

Mr. DORR. Senator, the remarks are the remarks. I'm not an insensitive person.

Senator HARKIN. My question was not whether you were sensitive. Could you see that someone might interpret your remarks and this pattern as being insensitive?

Mr. DORR. I believe my actions have actually—my actions have spoke very well of my sensitivity.

Senator HARKIN. Well, we can beat that one around.

Mr. Chairman, I have a series of questions of Mr. Dorr that I would like to ask, and I hope the answers will not be too long and involved.

Mr. Dorr, I wrote to you last Friday indicating that I would be referring to the record of the March 6, 2002 hearing, and that I would ask whether any part of that record ought to be clarified, corrected or completed. Do you have a response to that?

Mr. DORR. My response is, Senator, that I believe the record clearly reflects the hearing and the questions that were sent to me and which I responded to. The record, frankly, is a record. I realize that perhaps you or maybe some of your colleagues feel that it was not complete, but frankly, that is the information that I had available and I believe that is—the record reflects the hearing.

Senator HARKIN. It is your position as you appear before this committee today that the record of March 6, 2002, there is nothing that needs to be corrected, nothing that needs to be clarified, or nothing that needs to be completed?

Mr. DORR. Not that I'm aware of, no.

Senator HARKIN. Did you have a chance to go over that record?

Mr. DORR. Yes, I did.

Senator HARKIN. Well, let us start with what is established in the record, and then I have some matters that I hope we can clear up.

At page 53 of the record—and if you have that record in front of you, you can refer to it. On page 53 of the record, Senator Dayton stated that the Farm Service Agency found that the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust was in violation of the shares agreement in 1993, 1994 and 1995, and as a result, $17,000 was paid from that trust to FSA, and you said, "That is correct." Now I believe the actual figure was $16,638. Is all of that correct?

Mr. DORR. I believe so.

Senator HARKIN. You believe so. On page 54 you stated that there was an arrangement between the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust and Dorr's Pine Grove Farm, of which you were the CEO and sole stockholder along with your wife. Is that correct?

Mr. DORR. Correct.

Senator HARKIN. On page 56 you stated that the arrangement was that the Melvin Dorr Trust paid Dorr's Pine Grove Farm for machinery, management and marketing services. Is that correct?

Mr. DORR. Correct.

Senator HARKIN. On page 54 you state that you had the power of attorney to sign for this Melvin G. Dorr Trust at the FSA Office, and you did sign for that trust either as trustee or with the power of attorney. Is that correct?

Mr. DORR. That's correct.

Senator HARKIN. Again on page 55 you state that the Melvin Dorr Trust was, quote, "set up as an operating entity entitled to receive 100 percent of the benefits from the various farm program payments," end quote. You signed USDA papers to do that, is that correct?

Mr. DORR. Correct.

Senator HARKIN. Now, if this Melvin Dorr Trust was receiving 100 percent of the payments, as you signed the trust up for the farm program, that would be appropriate if the trust was the operator and was hiring custom farming done. Is that your understanding?

Mr. DORR. Correct.

Senator HARKIN. Indeed, going to page 60 of the record, there is a discussion of signing papers at the ASCS or FSA office. You said, quote, "On the M.G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust, I did, but I am—" and then Senator Dayton interrupted you and said, "You signed the documents?" Mr. Dorr. "That is right." Senator Dayton. "Representing it as a custom fee arrangement?" Mr. Dorr. "That is right."

Just to recap, Mr. Dorr, you signed papers at FSA that the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust was the operator, and basically so that USDA would believe that there was a custom farming arrangement. Is that correct?

Mr. DORR. That is correct.

Senator HARKIN. More specifically, on page 56 Senator Dayton said this: "It was my understanding that ASCS, when they came in and did an evaluation determined that the reason the trust owed the $17,000 back"—well, it was slightly less than 17,000—"was because the trust had represented this arrangement as a custom fee

arrangement, and in fact it was not, it was a crop share arrangement." End quote, that was Senator Dayton.

You did not disagree with that statement. Is that not in fact a correct statement of USDA's conclusion about what the actual arrangement was between the Melvin Dorr Trust and Pine Grove Farm? Again, I am not asking what you believe, Mr. Dorr, but that is what USDA determined, that in fact it was a crop share arrangement. Is that correct?

Mr. DORR. Senator, the Melvin Dorr Trust was signed up—the Melvin Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust was signed up as an owner/operator. Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Company provided custom farming services, management services, and stewardship services and marketing services as well, which they were reimbursed for. That was part of this record.

The end of year review determined that they thought it was something other than that. The trustees, of whom I was one, yes, I was given the power of attorney to sign up for farm programs at the FSA, but the trustees requested a meeting with the End-of-Year Review Committee after they made their decision and were denied.

In the context of working with legal counsel, he advised us that if we appealed this decision we could likely overturn the decision, but in all likelihood it would cost us about two times as much money or maybe even more, and to repay. He suggested that we just go ahead and pay back the fees and ask them how they wanted us to operate the farm if this wasn't appropriate, which is exactly what we did. That's what I stated back in March of 2002. That's what the case was.

Senator HARKIN. Now, obviously, we have other documents that came to our attention after that hearing, and we were unable to present these at the very brief and cursory hearing that we had in 2003, if I am not mistaken, 2003. In fact—and I would ask that the copy of a letter from Steven Phillips, the Iowa State FSA Office to James Little, Administrator of FSA, dated June 25th, 2002 be made a part of the record.

Well, I will ask it when the chairman comes back.

Senator CRAPO [presiding]. I will step in and assume the role, and without objection that will be so ordered.

[The letter from Steven Phillips, the Iowa State FSA Office to James Little, Administrator of FSA, dated June 25, 2002 can be found in the appendix on page 325.]

Senator HARKIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to have to have that because I want to correctly point out and ask if this is correct. First I will interject here that you said the end of the review—your End-of-Year Review Committee determined that that was not a custom farming arrangement.

Mr. DORR. They determined that there was an inappropriate division of——

Senator HARKIN. Shares.

Mr. DORR. Shares.

Senator HARKIN. Exactly. That is because that was not a crop share arrangement—it was not a custom farm arrangement. Is it not true, Mr. Dorr, that there are three separate times that either the Department of Agriculture of the Office of Inspector General

determined that this was a crop share arrangement and not a custom farm arrangement? No. 1, the End-of-Year Review Committee, second an investigation by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of agriculture, and third a special team from FSA was sent to investigate this. All three determined the same thing, so it was not just the End-of-Year Review Committee that determined that there was a shares violation based upon the fact that the arrangement that was stipulated was not in fact a custom farming arrangement, but was a crop share arrangement. That is what they determined. I am not asking what you believe, but this is what three separate entities said.

Mr. DORR. Obviously we disagreed with them.

Senator HARKIN. You do not disagree that three separate entities found that?

Mr. DORR. I do not know about the other two entities.

Senator HARKIN. Well——

Mr. DORR. I know that the OIG did an investigation. I don't know—frankly, that they addressed the inappropriate division of shares. I didn't—I'm not cognizant that that was the issue.

Senator HARKIN. Yes, they did. There was also a special team from FSA sent out to investigate this. Now, again, I will have those put in the record. I just want to make it clear that it was not just the End-of-the-Year Review Committee.

Mr. DORR. I would also add that the county committee, Senator, early on made a determination that there was not an issue here too.

Senator HARKIN. The county committee decided that there was not a shares violation.

Mr. DORR. That's correct.

Senator HARKIN. Did they have all the appropriate documentation in their hands at that time by which they needed to make that decision?

Mr. DORR. I don't know. They had all the documentation that they had requested.

Senator HARKIN. A lot of this came to light later on after the county had made their decision. I don't know if the county ever went back and reviewed it. I don't think so.

I am told, Mr. Dorr, that the State FSA Committee did, in fact, go back to the county committee and ask them to reexamine it, and that the county committee did, in fact, find a shares violation. Is that correct? I am told by my counsel that that is correct. Again, the county committee did not initially found a shares violation, but when they went back and investigated it later on, after they had the documentation that they needed, they did find a shares violation.

Mr. DORR. OK. If the end-of-year review committee recommendations went to the county and the county concurred, then, yes, they did.

Senator HARKIN. Correct me if I am wrong. Mr. Dorr, did you just say that the trustees requested to meet with the county committee and were not allowed?

Mr. DORR. No. I said that the trustees requested a meeting with the end-of-year review committee to review their decision, and that was not allowed.

Senator HARKIN. Well, Mr. Dorr, I am a little confused here because I have some minutes here of a meeting that took place at 9 a.m., December 5, 1996.

[Pause.]

Senator HARKIN. You did meet with the county committee.

Mr. DORR. That's correct.

Senator HARKIN. At the end of the year.

Mr. DORR. I shouldn't say that's correct. This is 9, going on 10 years ago, so I don't frankly have a document listing all those meetings, nor do I have that available.

Senator HARKIN. It looks as though you did have a chance to meet with the county committee, but whether you met with the end-of-year review committee I cannot determine that. I don't know that.

I ask that copies of all three of those—the end-of-year review committee, the investigation by the OIG, and the special team from the FSA—all be included in the record, and Senator Crapo acting for you said that that would be OK.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

Senator HARKIN. Now, let's turn to the Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust. I ask you to look at a document that was attached to a letter from Secretary Veneman.

Senator SALAZAR. Can I have 1 minute? I have another meeting that I have to run to.

Senator HARKIN. I would be glad to yield.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Salazar.

Senator SALAZAR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Dorr, I very much appreciated the response that you sent to me concerning the letter that I wanted from you outlining six different areas under which you wanted to work on an agenda on rural development. I am going to formally request of you that you get to me something that elaborates on each of the six points that you set forth in that letter. What I am looking for, prior to making my decision on how to move forward with this vote, is an action plan under each of the six subjects that you discuss in your letter. Will you agree to do that for me?

Mr. DORR. We will take a look at that, and we will do the best we can, yes, Senator.

Senator SALAZAR. OK. I am telling you, Mr. Dorr, what I really want here is a *specific set of an action plan* that you intend to implement over the next 4 years while you serve in this position, if confirmed. That will be very important to me as I move forward in my deliberation on this decision.

Mr. DORR. Senator, I am not trying to be evasive. I will do the best I can in all of those, yes.

Senator SALAZAR. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Senator.

Senator HARKIN. Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Dorr, you have a copy of a letter and attachments that were sent to me on June 27, 2002, stamp dated that time, signed by Ann Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture, with attachments thereto. I asked my staff to give that to you.

Mr. DORR. I have it.

Senator HARKIN. I would ask you to look at it. Isn't it true that the Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust had to repay $17,151.87 because they were also found to have a shares violation for the 1994 and 1995 crop years?

Mr. DORR. I'm not privy to the specific details of that, but generally speaking that's correct.

Senator HARKIN. Well, that was stated in the letter back here from Michael Houston, County Executive Director, to the Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust, c/o Donald J. Dorr, stating that the county committee had determined that the trust owed $17,151.87 plus interest as applicable. Again, they found that they had a shares violation for 1994 and 1995 crop years.

At the top of page 59, again, referring back to the record of 2002, following a reference to the repayment by the Melvin Dorr Family Trust, Senator Dayton asked you this:

"You have described here having a similar arrangement with the Harold Dorr Trust?"

You said, "That is correct."

Just a few lines later, again Senator Dayton, referring to the Harold Dorr Trust, said, "It was the same arrangement as with the other trust."

You said, "It was the same arrangement with the other trust, and the reason these were set up was because my uncle, shortly before his death, asked me to do that."

Now, this is all in the record, and again, I ask you: Is this record correct?

Mr. DORR. As far as I know, yes.

Senator HARKIN. Both the Melvin Dorr and the Harold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trusts had the same arrangement with Pine Grove Farm, your company. Is that correct?

Mr. DORR. Both trusts were set up as owner-operators at the FSA office. Both engaged Dorr's Pine Grove Farm and Tom Dorr to provide custom farming services, marketing services, management and land stewardship services, which we were reimbursed for by those trusts, that was the arrangement.

Senator HARKIN. That is how you filed it at the county office?

Mr. DORR. We filed the trusts. I filed the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust. The Harold Dorr Family Trust filed theirs. I believe my aunt made the original filing back in 1988 or 1989 as owner-operators, yes.

Senator HARKIN. As for your signing papers as the ASCS office or FSA on behalf of the Harold Dorr Trust, on page 48 of the record, you said, "I believe the record shows that I had power of attorney for the various family entities with regard to filing papers at the ASCS or now the FSA office." You had the power of attorney signing all this?

Mr. DORR. I had the power of attorney to sign these myriad of forms at the FSA or ASCS office at the time, yes. I did not—I believe, the record shows that, too, that I did not file any of the forms for the Harold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust indicating that it was an owner-operator. I believe that was done by my Aunt Belva that was the trustee.

Senator HARKIN. Was that done by Donald Dorr?

Mr. DORR. I believe that was done back in 1988 or 1989 by my Aunt Belva Dorr.

Senator HARKIN. Well, I have here a copy of a CCC–477, which indicates that all of the shares go to the trust. I see that. The signature is Harold E. Dorr Irrev.—I-r-r-e-v.—Family Trust, and it's signed by Thomas Dorr.

Mr. DORR. That was what form?

Senator HARKIN. POA—that's the Form CCC–477, which I understand is the form that you sign up intending to participate in the——

Mr. DORR. That's correct.

Senator HARKIN [continuing]. Program, in the program.

Mr. DORR. That's correct.

Senator HARKIN. This was——

Mr. DORR. I don't believe that's the form that indicates that it's an owner-operator.

Senator HARKIN. Here is 1995 and here is 1994 and here is 1993, and all three are signed by you, power of attorney. POA, I assume that's what that stands for.

Mr. DORR. Correct.

Senator HARKIN. What it says is that a 100 percent share, all, every one of them, and you signed it.

Mr. DORR. On the Form 477s?

Senator HARKIN. Yes.

Mr. DORR. Yes.

Senator HARKIN. Well, this is the form on which you attest as to where the percent shares go, and it says all, and it's to the Harold E. Dorr Trust, not the Melvin Dorr Trust.

Mr. DORR. Yes.

[Pause.]

Senator HARKIN. Yes, my counsel tells me that is right, that the years I just mentioned and the documents I have here, the copies of the CCC–477s for 1993, 1994, and 1995, were for the same years where you claimed that it was operated as a custom farming operation. Is that right?

Mr. DORR. Dorr's Pine Grove Farm was hired by those trusts—that trust to do the custom farming, to do the marketing, land stewardship, land management for the trusts, and they were compensated accordingly.

Senator HARKIN. OK. Mr. Chairman, I would ask that a copy of these be made part of the record in their entirety.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you want to identify exactly what they are?

Senator HARKIN. Yes, these are copies of three forms, CCC–477s for the Department of Agriculture. I will go through them seriatim here. The first one I guess I would identify as being 1993, and I don't know if the codes mean anything or not.

The CHAIRMAN. Just some general description so we can make——

Senator HARKIN. OK. These are CCC–477 forms signed by Mr. Dorr, one for 1993, one for 1994, and one for 1995.

The CHAIRMAN. They will be entered without objection.

Senator HARKIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The forms CCC–477, signed by Mr. Dorr, for the years 1993, 1994, and 1995 can be found in the appendix on page 196.]

Senator HARKIN. OK. Now we have established clearly that trail, that, in fact, when you signed those documents, you signed it as a custom farming arrangement. Now, there was some discussion about whether you signed those, but it is, in fact, that you did sign those papers, indicating 100–percent share of the payments and that it is a custom farming arrangement. I just want to make sure that so far we agree on that, that you signed those papers indicating that it was a custom farming arrangement, that all shares should go to the trust, Harold E. Dorr Trust.

Mr. DORR. I signed those forms indicating that the Harold Dorr Trust—Harold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust was the owner and the operator. They were free to go out and hire whoever they wanted to do the farming operations.

Senator HARKIN. There is a block on there that says percent shares, and you said all, and you signed to that.

Mr. DORR. I said that all the shares of the farm program payments would go to the Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust as directed by the trustees of that trust to do so.

Senator HARKIN. Exactly. Again, Mr. Dorr, the repayment from the Harold Dorr Trust to USDA was because USDA found a shares violation based on their determination that it was not custom farming but instead it was, they concluded, a crop share arrangement.

Again, I am not asking what you believe. I am asking what USDA found. Is that correct, that they found this not to be a custom farming but a crop share arrangement?

Mr. DORR. Apparently so.

Senator HARKIN. Now, I just want to review briefly the history of the arrangements between Dorr's Pine Grove Farms and the two trusts—the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust and the Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust. Can we have that chart here again?

Mr. Chairman, I ask the indulgence of the committee just a second to put a chart up.

This may look familiar, Mr. Dorr. We had this in 1992—I am sorry, in 2002. Of all the different entities and arrangements that you had from crop year 1988 to 1992.

Let's do a little bit of a history here. On page 65 of this record—and I want to look at that now myself. On page 65 of the record—I am referring now to the record of the hearing of 2002. You testified that until 1988, I am sorry, or 1989, Dorr's Pine Grove Farm had a crop share arrangement with these two family trusts. Again, it seems here that you were not certain which year it changed. Is that correct?

Mr. DORR. Yes, it was 1988 or 1989.

Senator HARKIN. Prior to that, you testified that it was a crop share arrangement.

Mr. DORR. That's correct.

Senator HARKIN. Again, on page 65, Mr. Dorr, you said, "I do not know what year exactly it was, Senator, whether it was 1989 or 1988. I cannot remember for sure what year it was."

"The Chairman. This is the same operation"—"the same operation"—"that you had from 1989 to 1995, but during that period of time you called it custom farming for those years."

"Mr. Dorr. That is correct."

"The Chairman. Before, it was crop share; after that, it was custom farming, and yet nothing else had changed?"

I wanted to find this exact quote here. You said, "Correct,

[except that] my uncle [had] approached me."

It certainly appears that nothing changed, even according to your own testimony, except how you characterized the arrangement to the USDA office and the paperwork that you or perhaps your aunt had on occasion signed at USDA. It looks like whatever was being done before 1988 or 1989 continued on, the same arrangement continued on, nothing changed, except how you presented that to the local county office.

Now, again, to shed some further light on the history of these arrangements, I want to direct your attention to this document provided to the committee as an attachment to a letter from Secretary Veneman dated June 27, 2002, which I referred to earlier. This document contains information on payments and shares for years from 1988 through 1993 for both the Melvin G. Dorr and Harold E. Dorr Trusts.

Now, that would be back here on—there's a page that has Harold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust and then at the bottom it has Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust.

I want you to look at the figures for the years that were not involved in the audits that resulted in repayments to USDA; that is, for the Melvin G. Dorr Trust, that would be 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991. For the Harold Dorr Trust, that would be 1988 to 1993—I am sorry. The first one would be 1988 to 1992. That is the Melvin Dorr Trust. The Harold Dorr Trust was 1988 to 1993.

Now, what these figures on this page is that in 1988 through 1993 the Melvin Dorr Trust had a 100–percent CCC–477 share, and for 1990 through 1993 the Harold Dorr Trust had a 100–percent CCC–477 share; and that for all 5 years, the trusts were signed up to receive 100 percent of the Farm Program payments. That is what this shows. Is that correct?

Mr. DORR. Apparently.

Senator HARKIN. The document shows that for the years 1988 through 1992, the Melvin Dorr Trust received USDA payments of $35,377. Further, for the years 1988 through 1993, the Harold Dorr Trust received at least $35,025 in USDA payments.

Now, it had to be more than that since the payment information for 1988 and 1989 is not available, as this thing shows. Again, I hope—do you agree on those figures?

Mr. DORR. I have no records to know whether or not those figures are correct, but if you have them from the FSA office——

Senator HARKIN. This is from the FSA office.

Mr. DORR. That's the best that I have access to.

Senator HARKIN. I have asked for this to be put in the record. I already asked for this to be put in the record.

Again, apart from the money that was paid to USDA by these trusts, there is an additional amount in excess of $70,000 in earlier years that was received under the same facts and circumstances that led USDA to require repayment of amounts received in 1993, 1994, and 1995. Now, again, this is before any penalties or interest. That $70,000 was not looked into, nor was it repaid. It seems clear that it stands on exactly the same basis as the money that the

trusts were required to pay back to USDA. Again, the reason they had to pay that money back was that the nature of the farming arrangements was not truly represented to USDA. You, Mr. Dorr, were the person principally involved in making these representations and signing these representations to the USDA.

Mr. Chairman, I am pointing out and the reason for this whole line of questioning was to point out that through all these years, prior to 1988 up to 1995, that the farming operations between Pine Grove Farms, Inc., of which Mr. Tom Dorr was the sole stockholder, shareholder, I guess along with his wife, the arrangement that Pine Grove Farms had with these trusts remained the same. By his own testimony, Mr. Dorr said that nothing changed except how it was represented to USDA. If it was a crop share basis before, it has never been fully explained, Mr. Dorr, why it was not a crop share arrangement afterward because you testified that it was the same basic operation. The only thing that changed is what you said to USDA. If it was crop share before, why wasn't it crop share after that?

Mr. DORR. As I've indicated, Senator, those decisions were made 17 years ago. They were made at aging parents and aging aunts and uncles. They were made for legitimate management reasons. We did not agree with the end-of-year review. It was interesting to me that once the Melvin G. Dorr end-of-year review was done, they never did an end-of-year review on the Harold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust until I became nominated.

We don't agree with the ruling. We think that the management fees, the marketing fees, the stewardship fees that were paid were appropriate. That's what the arrangement was.

Senator HARKIN. Well, Mr. Chairman, I have asked myself—and this has gone back to the first times of this hearing when all this came out—why was all this done? Mr. Dorr by his own words recorded on a conversation with his brother that has been extensively viewed—or listened to, himself said why it was done, not for aging aunts and uncles or anything like that, but, Mr. Chairman, I would like to request that the 7 minutes of that tape be played for this committee to hear.

The CHAIRMAN. As per our previous agreement, the CD of this recording will be played. I assume you have some mechanism to——

Senator HARKIN. Well, I asked the staff. I don't know this stuff.

[CD played.]

Senator HARKIN. Mr. Chairman, the transcript of this tape was not put in the record previously yet. I would ask that the transcript be made a part of the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The transcript of Mr. Dorr's recorded conversation with his brother can be found in the appendix on page 201.]

Senator HARKIN. Well, there you have it. Mr. Dorr, you did that, as you said by your own words. By your own words. You say some interesting things: first, it has always been done that way; and then, second, that you say that you have done this to avoid the minimum payment limitation. Is that not correct?

Mr. DORR. I believe I also indicated that it was appropriate to do that when we did it.

Senator HARKIN. Wait a minute. It was appropriate to file—to change the filing of your operation from crop share to custom farming in order to avoid minimum—in order to avoid the payment limitations. You say that that was correct, that was OK to do that?

Mr. DORR. I believe that everything we registered with the FSA office at the time we did it was legal and appropriate, yes.

Senator HARKIN. Well, Mr. Dorr, this is what is really baffling here in that you have said on the record that it was custom farming, and yet here in this phone conversation, you say it was a crop share basis and it sells all the crop and it reimburses us with a 50/50 split basis.

Now, either what you said on the tape is wrong or what you filed with USDA is wrong. They both cannot be right. USDA did not say it was correct. That is why they asked the trusts to pay the money back. They did not find it appropriate. You say it is appropriate. USDA did not say it was appropriate when they revisited it.

Well, Mr. Chairman, that is really the essence of that. I have one other letter that I wanted to include in the record, and that was the letter—do you have that letter? Where is it?

I asked Professor Neil Harl at Iowa State University, who knows a lot about farming arrangements and trusts, and is a recognized expert—he is the Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture at Iowa State—to look at all of these arrangements. That letter is dated July 29, 2002, and I would ask that that letter be made a part of the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The letter dated July 29, 2002 of the Charles F. Curtis Distinguised Professor in Agriculture at Iowa State, can be found in the appendix on page 204.]

Senator HARKIN. Again, Mr. Chairman, I really thank you for your indulgence in this matter. This is something that has bothered me for a long time and continues to bother me. I hope I will be done here very shortly and we will be out of here.

The deficiency payments varied each year. When the producer signs up for the Farm Program in the spring on those forms, the 477 forms, the producer does not know the final deficiency payment rate. Mr. Dorr could not have predicted what the deficiency payment would be in future years, but he certainly could have known that in the case of low corn prices, his Pine Grove Farm could exceed the payment limitation if the payments went to Pine Grove Farm, as they should, under a crop share arrangement.

USDA found that the farming arrangement between the two trusts and Dorr's Pine Grove Farm was not truly represented to USDA. It was represented as custom farming. USDA concluded it was a crop share lease.

Now, again, Mr. Dorr has said he disagrees with USDA's finding, but Mr. Dorr signed the papers to the effect that it was custom farming, but on this telephone conversation openly says, "I get a crop share on this arrangement." Both cannot stand individually.

What would the motivation be for that change, that change that happened in 1988 or 1989 when, by his own words, Mr. Dorr says nothing changed in the farming operation. He went down to the ASCS office and changed the way that it was represented.

Well, what is the motivation? We heard the tape. Calling is custom farming moved USDA payments to the trust that should have gone to Dorr's Pine Grove Farm in a crop share which USDA found was the really true arrangement here. Mr. Dorr said in his response to a question from Senator Conrad, page 393—this was a written question submitted by Senator Conrad. Mr. Dorr said that there was no exceeding of payment limitations in any of the years, even if the payments to the trusts and Dorr's Pine Grove Farm are all combined. That is not the point. The issue is whether misrepresenting the actual farming operation had to do with evading the potential to exceed payment limitations.

If we use Mr. Dorr's chosen method of combining the trust payments plus the payments to Dorr's Pine Grove Farm—let's use that method. If you combine the trust payments plus the payments to Dorr's Pine Grove Farm, remember, it was evading the potential to exceed the payment limitation for Dorr's Pine Grove Farm that is the issue.

If you look at the potential maximum combined payments, we see the combined payments could have exceeded $50,000 in 1989, in 1991, and perhaps even 1990 or 1992, had they been paid as a crop share basis rather than custom farming.

Again, that really is the point of what we are trying to point out here. The fact that, as I have said before, someone who is entrusted with a high position as Under Secretary of Agriculture, with this in the background, sends a very bad signal to farmers, to anyone who is partaking of Government programs.

Now, I have never said that people should not try to minimize their taxes or things like that, as long as it is done legally. As long as things are done legally and forthrightly, and as long as things are done in a way not to cheat the Government or misrepresent how an entity is structured—well, if you do it that way, then that is wrong.

Anyway, just a second. I am sorry. Mr. Chairman, one other thing, just to—I hope this is the last—have a table put into the record at this point regarding farm payment scenarios with target prices and loan rates for the years 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The table of farm payment scenarios with target prices and loan rates for years 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994 can be found in the appendix on page 207.]

Senator HARKIN. Mr. Dorr, you were a trustee of the Melvin G. Dorr irrevocable family trust, is that correct?

Mr. DORR. That's correct.

Senator HARKIN. Are you still a trustee of that?

Mr. DORR. No.

Senator HARKIN. Were you at this time in question also a trustee of the Harold E. Dorr?

Mr. DORR. No.

Senator HARKIN. Just the Melvin G. Dorr——

Mr. DORR. That's correct.

Senator HARKIN [continuing]. Irrevocable family trust. You also had power of attorney for the Melvin G. Dorr irrevocable family trust?

Mr. DORR. That's correct.

Senator HARKIN. Again, Mr. Dorr, my question here gets to how you see your responsibilities. Now, again, I realize that families want to keep farms as viable operations. Is not your fiduciary responsibility as a trustee of the Melvin G. Dorr irrevocable family trust, is not your responsibility and obligation to get the best possible return for the trust?

Mr. DORR. Sure.

Senator HARKIN. Do you believe that the arrangement that you had set up gave them the best return?

Mr. DORR. The custom farming and management arrangement we had set up was a good return for them, yes.

Senator HARKIN. Well, did you ever consider relinquishing your position as trustee during the years that you, through Dorr's Pine Grove Farm and PGF seeds, purchased inputs, farmed the land, and marketed the grain? Are you not also operating in Pine Grove's interest at that time?

Mr. DORR. Obviously, yes.

Senator HARKIN. You did not consider relinquishing your position as trustee of the Melvin G. Dorr irrevocable family trust? Again, the reason I ask that question, because if you assume this position of under secretary, then you have certain responsibilities and commitments. It has to be clearly delineated where those interests and where those responsibilities lie. Again, I would think as a trustee that you would have recognized that that was in conflict with your operations, or could potentially be a conflict with your operations on Pine Grove Farms and with the arrangements that you had with the Melvin G. Dorr irrevocable family trust.

I just have a couple of things. I want to loop back again where I started. Actually, I was going to finish on this, but I started on it, and that has to do with the letter that you sent me in 1999, October 8, 1999, and again, in which you say that—well, first of all, you are complaining about the access fee, the Federal universal access fee under telephone charges, which I in 2002 pointed out that this money helps rural communities. Here is what you said: With these kind of taxation and subsidies, you collectively are responsible for turning Iowa into a State of peasants totally dependent on your largesse. Should you decide to take a few side trips to the Iowa countryside, you will see an inordinate number of homes surrounded by five to 10 cars. The homes generally have a value of less than $10,000, which just confirms my 10–car, $10,000–home theory. The more you try to help, the more you hinder. The results are everywhere.

Again, Mr. Dorr, 3 years later, I would like to ask you again to explain the $10,000–home, 10–car theory. What is that theory? What is it a theory of?

Mr. DORR. It's appropriately stated in my note to you at the time, that was from a constituent to a Senator, not under the guise of the expectation that it would be something presented at a hearing.

I feel pretty passionately, Senator, about creating economic opportunities in rural America so those perhaps hardest—some of us have the opportunity to gain an economic foothold to build equity. As a matter of fact, in the context of my operation and my business, I work very, very closely with my associates, helped one of

them get a college education, helped another one buy a couple of homes, and get started so he had home ownership. The essence of it is, is that if you—every time you turn around they have more taxes to pay, it becomes more and more difficult for them to get the leg up that they need.

That was an outgrowth of my frustration with the increase in that particular tax at the time, that was stimulated, actually, by one of my associates who came out to me and showed it to me. It is absolutely no reflection on my view or my attitude about those in rural America that need a leg up and that we clearly work with, rural development, and that I have a long history of having worked with in my community and in a number of things that I have been involved with over the years.

To the extent that sheds any light on that comment, that's probably the best I can do at this point.

Senator HARKIN. Well, first of all, I would point out, again, as I did in the record at that time, that the national access fee you complained about for $4.31 was not a tax, even though you might have thought it was. It is the cost that long-distance companies pay the local telephone companies to cover some of the fixed costs. The tax that you had here was the universal access fee, it was 3 cents. You called it confiscatory. I pointed out at the time that a lot of this goes to help our rural schools, hospitals, and things like that.

This idea that somehow the more you help, the more you hinder, I asked you at the time—and I will refer back to the hearing—I said, Well, I still find this a little baffling. Then you said, "The more you try to help, the more you hinder."

Mr. Dorr, it seems to me, as under secretary for rural development you are there to help people. If you have an attitude that the more you help, the more you hinder them, I don't understand how you can carry that out. I assume, and I can only read this as plain English, you talk about Government maintaining a constituency dependent on Government revenue, the more you try to help, the more you hinder. The results are everywhere. Again, I am reading from the record, on Page 80 of that hearing in 2002.

Well, Mr. Dorr, the way I look at it, it seems that the Dorr family has benefited a lot from Government help.

"Did not the Dorr farms receive farmers home loans back during the farm crisis of the 1980's?"

"Mr. Dorr: I don't believe we received a farmers home loan. I believe I received a guaranteed loan the 1980's, that's correct."

"The Chairman. That is a guaranteed loan?"

"Mr. Dorr. That's correct. I appreciated it."

"The Chairman. You went to college. Did you get student loans?"

"Mr. Dorr. Yes, I did."

"The Chairman. Those were Government-backed?"

"Mr. Dorr. Yes."

"The Chairman. You have received farm payments?"

"Mr. Dorr. Yes."

"The Chairman. From the Federal Government?"

"Obviously."

"Has all this hindered you?"

Well, you went on to say no, then you went on to make a comment about mega-farms.

I guess it is that attitude, and I am trying to find out—that is why I asked if you had looked at the record. In my opening statement, I asked if you had looked at the record and was there anything you wanted to complete or correct. I guess what I was looking for, perhaps, was, that had you been, now, the length of time that you have been down at the Department and you have been working in these capacities, that maybe the more you help, the more you hinder is not quite the correct way to look at many of these things. I don't know. I don't know how to interpret it other than what was said there, other than you just wrote it in a moment of anger. I can understand people sometimes flying off the handle and stuff like that. If that is what it was, hey, I can accept that. If that was just I flew off the handle and I got ticked off 1 day and I wrote my Senator. I can understand that.

Are you saying that this really does—does this reflect your philosophy or does it not reflect your philosophy now?

Mr. DORR. Senator, I just explained to you what my philosophy was. I said earlier in the day what my philosophy is and what my views are of the things and the opportunities that we have at rural development to do. I believe that my background and characterization, my passion for assisting the minority communities that we talked about earlier, and all the others involved in rural development are pretty clearly part of the record. To suggest that I believe that the more we help, the more we hinder—that is clearly not true.

Senator HARKIN. Thank you. I appreciate that.

Last—I see Senator Grassley has come back—I do want to, again—I just want to comment on the bandwidth issue. Now, you have been down at the Department for the last 3 years or so in a key position. You served for over 1 year as under secretary for rural development, during which time the 2002 Farm bill was in effect. There is a provision in the Farm bill that provides for low-interest loans to private entities for getting broadband to rural communities, with a preference for those communities with less than 2,500, population.

Now, Senator Grassley was with me last year when we talked about that to President Bush in Des Moines. You can correct me if I am wrong, you said you had constituents, I know I have had constituents in Iowa, private entities who have tried to get these loans to get broadband out to small communities, and they have been stymied at every turn. Now, if I am off, I am off a little bit on this in terms of $1.6 billion, but there is still about $1.6 billion sitting there that could go out. When you responded to Senator Grassley earlier, you said, Well, if I get there then we will get outside experts to look at it.

That money has been there for 3 years. You were under secretary for a year. You have been in a key advisory position down there for 3 years. Yet, nothing has happened. You mentioned bandwidth in your opening statement. Well, Mr. Dorr, I don't see anything happening down there. With a provision that was put in the Farm bill, it is mandatory spending. The money is there. I have been extremely frustrated, as I know other Senators have been, that this money is not getting out to entities. Some of these entities are already providing services to communities. It is not that they are

some fly by-night outfit. In order to get the bottom line to come out, they need these low-interest loans, and they can get out to small communities all over our State and, I am certain, Georgia and other places, too.

I am—I just want for the record to say that I would like to have seen a little bit more action on that up to now than we have seen in getting that out. It is nice to hear that you support that, that you are interested in getting broadband out. That is wonderful. Words just don't suffice. We have to have some action in that regard.

If you have any comment on that. It is not really a question; it is more of a statement on my part.

Mr. DORR. I agree the program is a good program. We need to implement it as aggressively as possible. If I am confirmed, I will clearly work very hard on that.

Senator HARKIN. I thank you. I thank you, Mr. Dorr, and, Mr. Chairman, again I want to thank you for your indulgence as chairman for letting me pursue this questioning and making the record. I just can't thank you enough for your indulgence.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, sir.

[The statement and Biographical information of Mr. Dorr can be found in the appendix on page 282.]

Senator HARKIN. Oh—I thought I already asked that. I have a letter from Secretary Veneman dated April 12, 2002, that is referred to in the Harl letter. I have an order from the court dated September 6, 2002, regarding the audio tape. Then documents produced pursuant to a court order and the materials were disclosed after in camera inspection and redaction of purely private items, regarding the audio tape. The minutes of the Cherokee County FSA County Committee meeting of June 20, 1996; August 29, 1996; November 14, 1996; December 5, 1996; and December 19, 1996. Last, the Annual Survey of County Farmland Values prepared by Cherokee County FSA dated February 1, 1996.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The letter dated February 1, 1996 of the Annual Survey of County Farmland Values prepared by Cherokee County FSA can be found in the appendix on page 245.]

The CHAIRMAN. Let me say, first of all, that this issue of farm payments has certainly come up a lot in discussion today. It also came up quite often in the discussion in the hearing on March 6, 2002. [I have statistics here from the Farm Service Agency that show that in fiscal year 2001 alone there were thousands of repayments to USDA.] This includes a number of programs and also includes voluntary collections. I am not in any way introducing this to condone or agree with what Mr. Dorr did or should have done or didn't do relative to his situation, I do know, as all of us do, that farm programs can be very complicated, just like the tax code, and that individuals can make mistakes. The Government even makes mistakes. I would ask unanimous consent that these FSA statistics be included in the record. They will be, without objection.

[The information referred to in the FSA statistics can be found in the appendix on page 194.]

The CHAIRMAN. Also, after Mr. Dorr's first hearing before this committee, on March 6, 2002, the USDA Inspector General received

a hotline complaint regarding the statements made on the audio tape that was played here today. That prompted a full investigation, and Mr. Dorr was subsequently cleared of any wrongdoing. According to a report dated May 28, 2002, from Joyce Fleischman, Acting Inspector General for USDA, the conversations on that tape were the subject of a thorough investigation by OIG and the Iowa State FSA Office. I would ask that a copy of that report be included in the record.

Based upon the information developed during the OIG investigation, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Iowa declined any criminal or civil prosecution of Mr. Dorr, and the OIG considers this case to be closed. Quoting from that OIG report, let me read this statement: "We feel that we have investigated the matters referred to OIG concerning Mr. Dorr fully and consider the case to be closed. To date there is no new evidence to warrant reexamination nor the need to open a new investigation."

We have requested a copy of that OIG report. I would ask unanimous consent that when it is received, that it be inserted into the record.

[The information referred in the OIG report can be found in the appendix on page 303.]

The CHAIRMAN. Is there anything further?

If not, this hearing stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 1:04 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

April 27, 2005

SENATOR COLEMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing on the nomination of Mr. Tom Dorr to serve as Undersecretary for Rural Development.

To date, I have received endorsements of Mr. Dorr from the Minnesota Corn Growers; the Minnesota Pork Producers; the Minnesota Cattlemen; both Chairman Greg Davids and Vice Chairman Greg Blaine of the Minnesota House Agriculture Committee; the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative; Cenex-Harvest States Cooperative; the Minnesota Wheat Growers; the Minnesota Soybean Growers; and the list goes on.

Tom's been good to rural Minnesota and my farm families. Mr. Dorr has visited my home state several times in his capacity at USDA. And more often than not he's bringing with him critical infrastructure dollars for the rural Minnesota communities that I serve. One of the reasons Minnesota's wind energy industry has taken off – ours is the fastest growing in the country – is thanks to the work that Mr. Dorr has done at USDA.

Mr. Chairman, I don't mind senators asking questions and thoroughly vetting nominees. It's our job. But the questions about this nominee have been asked and answered…several times. And, frankly, as often and as hard as I look, there's just no there there.

So, Mr. Chairman, we in Minnesota have had a chance to see Mr. Dorr in action, to judge him by his record of service. And I have heard nothing but good things about Tom Dorr back home.

Mr. Dorr has already been doing the job – and doing it well. The Senate should finally reward him with the title. He's earned it.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
Russell Senate Office Building – Room 328A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Chambliss:

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus and Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we write with concern to the nomination of Mr. Thomas Dorr for Undersecretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. Attached, please find copies of letters sent last year by members of each Caucus. The concerns raised in these letters are yet to be adequately addressed. We ask that these issues be raised and probed prior to confirmation of Mr. Dorr.

Very Truly Yours,

Melvin L. Watt
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

Grace Napolitano
Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Charles A. Gonzalez
Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus
Civil Rights Task Force

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2001

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member
Committee On Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 731
Washington D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

We are writing today to register our deep concern regarding the proposed nomination of Tom Dorr for the Undersecretary of Rural Development at the US Department of Agriculture. Recent developments have cast doubt upon the Mr. Dorr's ability to serve all American farmers in a way that is sensitive to their needs and struggles.

In particular, we are disturbed by recent remarks attributed to Mr. Dorr regarding ethnic diversity and economic development. On May 10, the DesMoines Register quoted Mr. Dorr as saying the following:

> This is not at all the correct environment to say this, but I think you ought to perhaps go out and look at what you perceive the three most successful rural economic environments in this state....you'll notice when you get to looking at them that they're not particularly diverse, at least not ethnically diverse....There's something there obviously that has enabled them to succeed very well.

Given the past record of the United States Department of Agriculture on matters of ethnic diversity and civil rights, we are shocked to learn that the proposed nominee would express the belief that ethnic diversity is an impediment to economic growth. Mr. Dorr's nomination for a position that would require him to work in counties with extensive ethnic diversity makes it difficult for us to understand, much less reconcile ourselves to, such seemingly insensitive statements.

The Congressional Black Caucus has long worked to ameliorate USDA's historic bias against minority farmers and to improve the capacity of USDA to work with minority and economically disadvantaged farmers. Given the ongoing efforts that many members of this caucus have made in this regard, it is possible, even likely, that to confirm Mr. Dorr as the Undersecretary for Rural Development without a deeper investigation into his sentiments regarding ethnic diversity would send the message that the Administration lacks an adequate commitment to civil rights and minority farmers.

Additionally, we have reservations about reports that Mr. Dorr has proposed that the future of American farming lies in mega-farms of 225,000 acres. As the American agricultural sector becomes increasingly concentrated and mechanized, small and medium size farms are already finding it difficult to compete with larger and more powerful agricultural operations and interests. In recent decades small farmers, especially minority farmers, have slowly disappeared as our agricultural system has increasingly become dependant upon a small number of large farms.

As large farms have gained marketshare, there has been no commensurate improvement in the fortunes of small and medium farmers. If they are able to stay in business at all, many of these farmers are forced to fight for an ever dwindling share of the agricultural market. In addition, those who are unable to maintain the economic viability of their farms find themselves faced with limited off-farm employment and educational opportunities.

Rather than accepting the demise of the small farmer as a historical inevitability, it is critical that the Department of Agriculture seek ways in which to harness new and creative means by which to ensure that farms of all sizes can flourish. The future of rural America need not reside only in ever increasing economies of scale and market concentration. Rural America faces struggles that go considerably beyond the fields. Rather, it faces issues of crumbling infrastructure, lack of planning capacity, outmigration of youth, and a growing digital divide between urban and rural communities. Any policy for rural America which does not recognize the interplay of these many complex and intersecting concerns does rural America injustice.

As you move forward with the consideration of the nomination of Mr. Dorr for the Undersecretary of Rural Development at USDA, we urge you to carefully consider the concerns that we have enumerated here. In particular, we urge you to delay confirmation until you have an adequate satisfaction that Mr. Dorr has the requisite expertise and sensitivity to enable him to address the broad range of needs and issues facing rural America, particularly issues relating to ethnic diversity and small farms.

Sincerely,

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Ann M. Clayton

Carrie P. Meek

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick

Wm. Lacy Clay

Danny K. Davis

Melvin L. Watt

Maxine Waters

Barbara Lee

Juanita Millender-McDonald

Alcee L. Hastings

Bobby L. Rush

Paul Gillmor

Tom Osborne

Pete Stark

Susan Davis

Maxine Waters

Earl J. Hilliard

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2003

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 328A
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 328A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Harkin:

On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we write to express our continued opposition to the confirmation of Thomas Dorr for Undersecretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. Furthermore, we urge that Mr. Dorr's confirmation process not bypass the required hearings necessary to provide a full accounting of Mr. Dorr's very troubling views on agriculture and his equally upsetting stated views on racial diversity in America.

This opposition is not arbitrary, but based on reasonable concerns. Our opposition is based on Mr. Dorr's vocal stances on his vision of farming and his resistance to sustainable agriculture. One of the biggest threats to independent producers, farm workers, and rural communities is the growing corporate control of the nation's food production system. Undersecretary Dorr's vision of farming is one of 225,000 acre operations – one farm for every 350 square miles. This is 656 times the size of the average farm. Such a vision is antithetical to a broader vision of broad-based and equitably distributed growth for all of rural America.

In addition, in comments made publicly and reported in the Des Moines press, Mr. Dorr believes that diversity of race, ethnicity, and religion detract from economic productivity. He claimed in a meeting in 1999 that three of Iowa's more prosperous counties do well economically because "they have been very non-diverse in their ethnic background and their religious background." These comments are puzzling, and raise concerns about his racial sensitivity.

The Undersecretary of Rural Development must support a viable and equitable vision for our rural communities. Mr. Dorr's opposition to sustainable agriculture programs, support for corporate control of farms, and his contention that economic prosperity can be contributed to lack of ethnic and religious diversity are the worst possible answers to the economic, social and environmental problems facing farm workers and their communities in rural America. Based on Mr. Dorr's background and his tenure at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it is easy to understand why both civil rights and farmer interest organizations have opposed him, his extreme corporate views and racial insensitivity.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Latinos, farmers, farmworkers, and farmer organizations throughout the country oppose the confirmation of Thomas Dorr. What we need are USDA officials who represent family farmers, farmworkers, and sensible farm policies. Farmers from

his own state and from throughout the country oppose his confirmation. This opposition may explain why President Bush found it necessary to initially appoint Undersecretary Dorr through a recess appointment rather than allowing his nomination to move through a transparent and formal process in the US Senate. Last, the appointment of Mr. Dorr does little to improve the image of an agency plagued with civil rights violations and class action lawsuits from minority farmers.

For all of these reasons, we strongly oppose the confirmation of Mr. Thomas Dorr and strongly urge that his views and tenure at USDA be explored in confirmation hearings.

Sincerely,

Ciro D. Rodriguez
Chairman, Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

CC: Senate Majority Leader Frist
Senate Minority Leader Daschle
Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Hatch
Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Leahy

Letters received in support of the nomination of Tom Dorr from 85 organizations and 14 individuals.

CORPORATIONS:

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation
Black Farmers and & Agriculturalists Association, Arkansas Chapter
Action 22
City of Trinidad
Agricultural Retailers Association
CropLife America
National Renderers Association
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Colorado Farm Bureau
National Bison Association
Farm Credit Council
National Grain Sorghum Producers
Renewable Fuels Association
Biotechnology Industry Organization
American Soybean Association
The Fertilizer Institute
US Rice Producers
American Feed Industry Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
International Dairy Foods Association
Corn Refiners Association
National Biodiesel Board
The "Next Mile" Project
The Governor of Guam
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Green Real Estate & Auction
Iowa Central Community College
Iowa State University
Minnesota House Representatives
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Bootheel Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.
College of Agriculture, University of Missouri-Columbia
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Department of Agriculture
Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
Missouri Pork Association
Pemiscot-Dunklin Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Middle Township
Langston University
Wisconsin Corn Program
Wisconsin Realtors Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Meat Association
American Soybean Association
National Association of Latino/Hispanic Farmers & ranchers
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Credit Union Administration
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Turkey Federation

United Egg Association
United Egg Producers
United Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Association
USA Rice Federation
CHS, Inc. (Cenex)
Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
Cotton Growers Cooperative
Council for Affordable and Rural Housing
Frontier Spinning Mills
Impact Seven, Inc.
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Mississippi Action For Community Education, Inc.
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Association of Home Builders
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Leased Housing Association
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
North Carolina Peanut Growers Association, Inc.
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, Inc.
Oklahoma Farmers Union
Sheldon Chamber & Development Corporation
South Dakota Corn Growers Association
South Dakota Farm Bureau
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
South Dakota Wheat, Inc.
Tennessee farm Bureau Federation
Tri-State Stakeholders

INDIVIDUALS:

Apitz, John F., Messerli & Kramer, Minnesota
Chesnutt, James W., CEO, National Spinning Company, Washington, DC
Davids, Gergory M., State Representative, Minnesota House of Representatives
Davis, Dexter, President, Northeast Louisiana Black Farmers and Landowners Association
Downs, Darrell, Mayor, Marcus Iowa
Folsom, Jackie, Crooked Brooks Farm, LLC, Cabot, Vermont
Gibson, Hezekiah, President, United Farmers, USA
Guthmiller, Marin W., CEO, Orange City Health System, Orange City, Iowa
King, Calvin R., Dr., Arkansas land and Farm Development Corporation
Leath, Steven, North Carolina State University
Ogren, Kenneth, President, Farmers State Bank, Marcus Iowa
Paige, Ralph, Exec. Dir., Federation of Southern Cooperatives and Land Assistance Fund
Sand, Charles, President, Sands of Iowa, Marcus, Iowa
Wheeler, Dan, Columbia, Tennessee

April 26, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture
Nutrition, and Forestry
328 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture
Nutrition, and Forestry
328 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Chambliss and Ranking Member Harkin:

The viability of America's agriculture industry is dependent upon the strength and prosperity of our rural towns and cities. Without rural communities to provide infrastructure and an economic foundation, our domestic agricultural production would be drastically limited. USDA – Rural Development has been and continues to be an indispensable resource for the development and growth of rural America. As such, this agency needs a leader that demonstrates passion for strengthening our small towns and creating an improved quality of life for rural citizens, which is why we support Thomas Dorr to be Under Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Dorr is extremely well qualified to be Under Secretary for Rural Development. He grew up on his family's farm near the small town of Marcus, Iowa. He returned home after receiving a BS degree in business administration from Morningside College to begin a successful career as manager of the family farm and grain elevator, which gave him a first-hand understanding of the challenges facing family farmers, small businessmen, and small town community leaders. He is a person of outstanding character who shared his drive and leadership talents in many local, state, and national organizations.

Our organizations represent many of the 65 million Americans who live and work in rural America. We understand the importance of healthy and prosperous rural communities in improving the quality of life for our members, attracting the best and brightest young people back to our farms and rural businesses, and securing the future of American agriculture.

We ask you to confirm Tom Dorr as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. We believe he will be a key member of the new leadership team at the Department of Agriculture at a very critical time for rural America.

Sincerely,

National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Corn Growers Association
USA Rice Federation
Agricultural Retailers Association
CropLife America
United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association
National Renderers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
Farm Credit Council
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Grain Sorghum Producers
Renewable Fuels Association

Biotechnology Industry Organization
United Egg Producers
American Soybean Association
National Chicken Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
The Fertilizer Institute
US Rice Producers
American Feed Industry Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
United Egg Association
International Dairy Foods Association
National Turkey Federation
National Cotton Council
Corn Refiners Association
National Biodiesel Board

North Carolina State University is a land-grant university and a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
North Carolina Agricultural Research Service

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Campus Box 7643
Raleigh, NC 27695-7643

919.515.2717
919.515.7745 (fax)
ag_research@ncsu.edu

February 28, 2005

The Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3308

Dear Senator Burr:

My office is responsible for agricultural research in North Carolina. Our research efforts, in accordance with our land grant mission, serve agriculture and foster rural economic development. In fact, rural economic development depends on our research but also on its implementation. Much of this implementation is linked to leadership in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development sector. I believe Thomas C. Dorr will advance our joint mission and I support his nomination for Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has a strong record in this area and has shown his support and knowledge of programs such as value-added agriculture that we are actively pursuing. His ability to work with us and advance our farmers' competitiveness and foster rural economic development is critical at this time.

This office fully endorses his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Steven Leath
Interim Associate Dean and Director

cc: Senator Chambliss

North Carolina State University is a land-grant university and a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
North Carolina Agricultural Research Service

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Campus Box 7643
Raleigh, NC 27695-7643

919.515.2717
919.515.7745 (fax)
ag_research@ncsu.edu

February 28, 2005

The Honorable Elizabeth Dole
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3307

Dear Senator Dole:

My office is responsible for agricultural research in North Carolina. Our research efforts, in accordance with our land grant mission, serve agriculture and foster rural economic development. In fact, rural economic development depends on our research but also on its implementation. Much of this implementation is linked to leadership in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development sector. I believe Thomas C. Dorr will advance our joint mission and I support his nomination for Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has a strong record in this area and has shown his support and knowledge of programs such as value-added agriculture that we are actively pursuing. His ability to work with us and advance our farmers' competitiveness and foster rural economic development is critical at this time.

This office fully endorses his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Steven Leath
Interim Associate Dean and Director

cc: Senator Chambliss

Martin W. Guthmiller
Chief Executive Officer

April 21, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Chair
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
Russell Senate Office Bldg, Room 328A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Thomas Dorr to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

I had the good fortune to meet Mr. Dorr as he provided counsel and assistance to us as we sought USDA Loan Guaranty for our replacement hospital campus in Orange City, Iowa. He personally visited us to gain further insight in to our needs and to demonstrate his support. The guaranty was received and our hospital is under construction.

Beyond our project, those of us who met with him were impressed by his vision for the role of Rural Development. We believe rural areas have a great deal to offer from lifestyle to economic development. With proper vision and appropriate assistance, rural areas can leverage their assets to not only promote local and regional initiatives, but state and federal initiatives as well.

We believe Mr. Dorr can advance these causes and I again offer my endorsement of his nomination for this critical position.

Sincerely,

Martin W. Guthmiller
CEO

MWG:mp

400 Central Avenue, N.W.
Orange City, Iowa
51041-1342
712-737-5270
FAX 712-737-5291
guthmilm@ochealthsystem.org

April 21, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Chair
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 328 A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr of Marcus, Iowa to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Mr. Dorr's background as a farmer in Northwest Iowa includes serving on the Iowa Board of Regents, Director of the Corn Growers, and member of the Board of the Federal Reserve of Chicago and this provides a solid base to serve as Under Secretary for Rural Development.

During his leadership as Under Secretary for Rural Development in 2002 we had tremendous progress in Rural Development in Northwest Iowa. It is very important for us in rural Iowa to have this progress continue, and strongly urge support for the nomination.

Respectfully,

Charles Sand, President
Sands of Iowa
Marcus, Iowa

Darrell Downs, Mayor
Marcus, Iowa

Kenneth Ogren, President
Farmers State Bank
Marcus, Iowa

CC
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Mike Johanns

Gregory M. Davids
State Representative
Speaker Pro Tempore
District 31B
Fillmore and Houston Counties

Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: CHAIR, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
TECHNOLOGY, BIOSCIENCE AND MEDICAL PRODUCTS DIVISION
TOURISM DIVISION
TAXES

April 18, 2005

Senator Norm Coleman
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coleman:

I would like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage you to support and vote for Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development of the US Department of Agriculture.

President George W. Bush, in nominating Mr. Dorr for this key position at USDA Rural Development, is expressing his confidence in the outstanding work already performed by Mr. Dorr at USDA Rural Development when he served as Under Secretary.

I would like to focus on three key reasons why Mr. Dorr should be confirmed by the Senate as Under Secretary. First, Mr. Dorr is a person of outstanding character and integrity. During the time that he served as Under Secretary, Mr. Dorr provided strong leadership in the Department on matters relating to a strict adherence of ethics, of the rules and regulations governing the agency, and strict accountability concerning the Administration of budget matters within USDA Rural Development.

Second, Mr. Dorr proved himself to be a competent administrator of USDA Rural Development during the time that he served as Under Secretary. Mr. Dorr is a man of great vision and he provided strong direction and leadership to the state directors who administrate USDA Rural Development Programs at the state level. Mr. Dorr possesses excellent financial and business expertise. He also during that time at USDA Rural Development forged new and creative relationships with non-profits, community economic development organizations, and government leaders at the state and local levels. In implementing the 2002 US Farm Bill, Mr. Dorr effectively utilized private sector resources to help expedite the review and announcement of $37 million in Value Added, Renewable Energy, and Broadband provisions of the Farm Bill. Mr. Dorr has also forged new leadership in implementing the renewable energy provisions of the 2002 Farm bill. Minnesota has received the largest allocation of any state in the nation from these renewable energy funds, and we thank Mr. Dorr for his leadership here.

P.O. Box 32, Preston, Minnesota 55965 (507) 765-2790
State Office Building, 100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1298 (651) 296-9278
FAX: (651) 296-4121 TTY: (651) 296-9896 Email: rep.greg.davids@house.mn (800) 551-9145

Third and finally, Mr. Dorr is a fourth generation farmer from Iowa. He has the hands on skills of knowing what agriculture and rural economic development is all about. I commend President George Bush for his appointment of Thomas Dorr to this key position so vital to the future of rural Minnesota and rural America. I might add that in the time that Mr. Dorr served as Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development he made at least three trips that I am aware to Minnesota to announce projects of key importance to the rural areas of our state. I speak for everyone in the rural community when I say that we are grateful to Mr. Dorr for the good work that he done for us in the state of Minnesota.

Senator Coleman, I strongly urge you to support and vote for Thomas C. Dorr's nomination as Under Secretary of USDA Rural Development. I thank you for the opportunity to express my views to you on this important matter.

With appreciation.

Sincerely,

Gregory M. Davids, Chair
House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

Sheldon Chamber & Development Corporation
P.O. Box 276
Sheldon, IA 51201
Phone: 712-324-2813 Fax: 712-324- 4602

Email Address: mgaul@sheldoniowa.com
Website: www.sheldoniowa.com

04/21/05

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 328 A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chambliss;

The purpose of this letter is to express support for Thomas Dorr of Marcus, Iowa to be Under Secretary of Agriculture and to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Rural Development at the U.S.D.A. is a crucial partner for economic development efforts in Iowa and in Sheldon, Iowa in particular. The tools provided by the U.S.D.A. give areas such as ours the opportunity to thrive in a global economy. The community of Sheldon has a unique opportunity with a four lane expressway being completed in the fall of 2006. This corridor will bring much needed additional traffic to our area making Sheldon, Iowa a hub along the expressway.

Mr. Dorr has always been a leader in our area and has contributed to the entire region for many years. He is and would make a great servant to the U.S.D.A. and really bring the rural point of view to the department. I encourage you to select Mr. Dorr for the position and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Gaul
Executive Director
Sheldon Chamber and Development Corporation

cc. The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Mike Johanns

NCFC®

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

April 19, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) strongly supports for the nomination of Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary for Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

NCFC is the national trade association representing America's farmer cooperatives. There are nearly 3,000 farmer cooperatives across the U.S. whose members include a majority of our nation's more than 2 million farmers. They exist for the mutual benefit of their farmer members and provide these members with increased opportunity to improve their income from the marketplace and compete more effectively in the global marketplace. Farmer cooperatives are also a major source of employment, accounting for nearly 300,000 full time and part time jobs.

NCFC believes that Mr. Dorr has a strong background in agriculture and has a firm grasp on the issues facing farmers, their cooperatives, and rural America. His knowledge, leadership and creativity will allow him to be effective in carrying out the programs and policies designed to promote the economic well-being of rural America.

Therefore, NCFC urges the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and the full Senate to act to confirm Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Sincerely,

Jean-Mari Peltier
President & CEO

50 F STREET, NW • SUITE 900 • WASHINGTON, DC • 20001 • 202-626-8700 • fax 202-626-8722 • Web site www.ncfc.org

Serving America's Farmer-Owned Cooperative Businesses Since 1929

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WILSON CONSTRUCTION, LLC
Ketchum, ID
(208) 726-9776
FAX: (208) 726-1419
E-MAIL: dfwilson@cox-internet.com

First Vice President
DAVID L. PRESSLY, JR.
PRESSLY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, INC.
Statesville, NC
(704) 872-1000
FAX: (704) 878-2217
E-MAIL: presslypdc@bellsouth.net

Vice President/Treasurer
BRIAN C. CATALDE
PARAGON COMMUNITIES, INC.
Playa Del Rey, CA
(310) 301-0029
FAX: (310) 301-0039
E-MAIL:
bc@paragoncommunities.com

Vice President/Secretary
SANDRA J. DUNN
BJ BUILDERS
Point Pleasant, WV
(304) 675-1967
FAX: (304) 675-1081
E-MAIL: sandyjdunn@aol.com

Immediate Past President
JAMES R. RAYBURN
RAYBURN & ASSOCIATES, LLC
Jackson, MS
(601) 856-1761
FAX: (601) 853-6650
E-MAIL: bobby.rayburn
@nahbofficer.com

Executive Vice President
& Chief Executive Officer
GERALD M. HOWARD
Washington, DC
(202) 266-8257
FAX: (202) 266-8349
E-MAIL: jhoward@nahb.com

February 17, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Chambliss and Ranking Member Harkin:

On behalf of the 220,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I would like to express our enthusiastic support for Thomas C. Dorr to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Dorr's commitment to housing rural Americans was quite evident throughout his previous tenure in this critical post. During that time, he quickly demonstrated his knowledge of the housing dilemma faced by the rural poor. Since then, he has worked diligently to implement efforts to define and to begin to resolve serious problems that exist with properties in the Rural Housing Service's multifamily loan portfolio. Given another opportunity to serve, I am confident that Tom Dorr will continue to attack these problems head-on and with great success.

Again, I encourage you to quickly confirm Tom Dorr's nomination as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. Thank you in advance for the consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Gerald M. Howard
Executive Vice President and
Chief Executive Officer

GMH/wsr

CC: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Trent Lott

1201 15th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20005-2800
(800) 368-5242 • (202) 266-8200 • Fax: (202) 266-8374 • www.nahb.org

April 22, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
Room 328A, Russell Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Iowa Corn Growers Association, representing more than 6,000 Iowa farmers, I would like to recommend most strongly that the Senate Agriculture Committee confirm the appointment of Thomas Dorr as the USDA Rural Development Under Secretary.

In our opinion, perpetuating any debate about Tom Dorr's fitness at this point is not in the interest of Iowa's or the nation's rural communities. The USDA and the farmers in Iowa need an effective, forward-looking leader in the rural development post *now*, not continued delay.

Further, Tom clearly demonstrated his capacity and commitment to doing the rural development job during the first Bush Administration, despite the distractions that dogged his appointment. We believe he handled the extreme pressures placed on him with great professionalism. Now we want to see what he can achieve for rural development when he can proceed without such distractions.

We would like to take this opportunity to urge you, in your leadership capacity, to move the Senate Agriculture Committee toward a vote on Tom's nomination as promptly as possible. We hope he will also have your personal backing during the debate.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

David Calderwood

David Calderwood
President

Cc: Senator Grassley, Senator Harkin

5505 NW 88th Street, #100
Johnston, IA USA
50131-2948
Phone (515) 225-9242
Fax (515) 225-0781
E-mail corninfo@iowacorn.org
Website www.iowacorn.org

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

418 West Cedar • Cherokee, Iowa 51012
Tel: 712-225-5739 • Fax: 712-225-1991 • E-mail: caedc@netins.net • Website: www.cherokeeia.com

April 21, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Chair
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 328 A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

This letter is to express the support of the Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation for the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr of Marcus, Iowa to the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Mr. Dorr has extensive history of work in economic development and in agriculture. He is a farmer in Northwest Iowa and had the foresight to be one of the founding directors of the Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation over fifteen years ago. His progressive experience serving on the Iowa Board of Regents, Director of the Corn Growers and a member of the Board of the Federal Reserve of Chicago endow Mr. Dorr with the expertise necessary to serve as Under Secretary.

The Board of Directors of the Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation strongly urges support for the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr. We believe he will be a great advocate for rural America.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Buschkamp
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Mike Johanns

Michael Toelle
Chairman of the Board

5500 Cenex Drive
Inver Grove Heights, MN
55077

651-355-6000
651-699-6417 Fax
michael.toelle@chsinc.com
chsinc.com

April 26, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Chair
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
Russel Senate Office Building
Room 328 A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

We write to express our support for the nomination of Thomas Dorr to be Under Secretary for Rural Development at the Department of Agriculture. Tom has proven his ability to manage this large and important agency. He has demonstrated a passion for strengthening our small towns and creating an improved quality of life for citizens living in rural America.

Tom is extremely well qualified for the Under Secretary for Rural Development position. He knows first hand the needs of rural America. He grew up on a family farm near the small town of Marcus, Iowa. After college, her returned to the farm, and began a successful career as manager of the family farm and grain elevator, which gave him an understanding of the challenges facing family farmers, small businessmen and small town community leaders.

Tom's leadership and integrity have impressed us. He is a person of good character who shared his talents by serving as a leader in many local, state and national organizations. It is critical to have him and other nominees in positions at USDA before the 2006 Farm Bill debate begins this summer.

Our organizations represent many Americans who work and live in rural America. We fully understand the importance of having healthy and prosperous rural communities to improve the quality of life for our members, but also to attract the best and brightest young people back to our farms and rural businesses.

We ask you to confirm Tom Dorr for Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development. We believe he will be a key member of the leadership team and the Department of Agriculture at a very critical time for rural America.

Sincerely,

Michael Toelle
Chairman
CHS Inc.

April 26, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: NOMINATION OF THOMAS C. DORR

Dear Chairman Chambliss:

As the federal agency Congress charged with chartering, regulating and/or insuring the nation's credit unions, the National Credit Union Administration has maintained a close working relationship with the USDA and the President's nominee to be Under Secretary for Rural Development, Mr. Tom Dorr.

Mr. Dorr's leadership has been instrumental in our agencies partnering to provide economic empowerment across America, especially often in underserved and minority communities.

The nation's credit unions have a pivotal role to play in helping Americans from all walks of life achieve the American Dream of financial self-sufficiency. The NCUA, in partnership with USDA, has made greater access to affordable credit for homeowners and capital for rural small business owners a major priority.

Without Mr. Dorr's steadfast leadership, I know we would not have realized the success in our partnership thus far. I am confident that upon Senate confirmation, Mr. Dorr will continue to provide strong leadership for rural America. I respectfully urge your support and vote for Tom Dorr as the next Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Sincerely yours,

JoAnn Johnson
Chairman

April 26, 2005

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: NOMINATION OF THOMAS C. DORR

Dear Senator Harkin:

As the federal agency Congress charged with chartering, regulating and/or insuring the nation's credit unions, the National Credit Union Administration has maintained a close working relationship with the USDA and the President's nominee to be Under Secretary for Rural Development, Mr. Tom Dorr.

Mr. Dorr's leadership has been instrumental in our agencies partnering to provide economic empowerment across America, especially often in underserved and minority communities.

The nation's credit unions have a pivotal role to play in helping Americans from all walks of life achieve the American Dream of financial self-sufficiency. The NCUA, in partnership with USDA, has made greater access to affordable credit for homeowners and capital for rural small business owners a major priority.

Without Mr. Dorr's steadfast leadership, I know we would not have realized the success in our partnership thus far. I am confident that upon Senate confirmation, Mr. Dorr will continue to provide strong leadership for rural America. I respectfully urge your support and vote for Tom Dorr as the next Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Sincerely yours,

JoAnn Johnson
Chairman

(703) 837-8467

Council for Affordable and Rural Housing

Celebrating 25 Years Serving the Affordable Housing Needs of Rural America

March 16, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
328 A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Council for Affordable and Rural Housing (CARH) is a nationwide trade association with its headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. CARH represents the interests of over 400 private for-profit and non-profit companies, as well as federal state and local housing finance agencies. Members of the association build, develop, finance, manage, own and supply products and services to the affordable rural housing industry.

On behalf of our members throughout the country, we are writing to you today in support of the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr to be Under Secretary for Rural Development at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Rural Development (RD) office of USDA is facing several important transitional challenges. Specifically, the multifamily portfolio of the Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program has an extremely positive record providing homes to rural poor families and elderly persons, but most of these properties are 20 to 30 years old and need further assistance to continue their successful mission. There is a need for strong leadership and a determination to forge long-term solutions to preserving this important investment in rural housing.

Mr. Dorr has served during the past year and a half as a senior advisor to the Secretary of the USDA. In this capacity he has been responsible for bringing to the attention of officials within the agency the complex issues facing the Section 515 program. Budget cuts coupled with the need to preserve an aging Section 515 housing portfolio, have created challenges for the agency, CARH members and above all, the residents we all work to serve. These challenges will require a firm, steady and knowledgeable hand guiding the Under Secretary's Office. As a result of Mr. Dorr's efforts to date, RD has worked to deliver a thorough study of the Section 515 portfolio, which contains recommendations that if implemented will continue this vital source of housing in rural America.

On behalf of our members, we appreciate your attention in this matter and urge the committee to expeditiously confirm Mr. Dorr as Under Secretary for USDA's Rural Development.

Sincerely,

Robert Rice, Jr.
President

cc: Honorable Mike Johanns, Secretary USDA
Christopher Smith, Office of Public Liaison, White House

1112 King Street • Alexandria, Virginia 22314 • (703) 837-9001 • (703) 837-8467 Fax
carh@carh.org • www.carh.org

April 15, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
United States Senate
Room SR-328A
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6000

Dear Chairman Chambliss:

The Mortgage Bankers Association[1] (MBA) is writing in support of the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr as Under Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). We are confident that, with the Senate's confirmation, Mr. Dorr will be a strong advocate for the housing needs of this country's rural communities.

MBA is an active proponent of the single-family and multifamily housing programs administered by Rural Development's Rural Housing Service (RHS). In fact, the vast majority of RHS's Section 502 Guaranteed Single Family Housing Loans are originated by MBA members. During the 108th Congress, MBA advocated for legislation authorizing Ginnie Mae to securitize RHS's Section 538 multifamily loans, and, once passed, an MBA member company was the first to securitize the product with Ginnie Mae.

We believe that Mr. Dorr, like MBA, is also a strong supporter of rural communities. We support Mr. Dorr's nomination as Under Secretary for Rural Development because we have found him to be an engaged leader with a true commitment to the housing and community development needs of rural America.

---

[1] **The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) is the national association representing the real estate finance industry, an industry that employs more than 480,000 people in virtually every community in the country. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the association works to ensure the continued strength of the nation's residential and commercial real estate markets; to expand homeownership prospects through increased affordability; and to extend access to affordable housing to all Americans. MBA promotes fair and ethical lending practices and fosters excellence and technical know-how among real estate finance professionals through a wide range of educational programs and technical publications. Its membership of approximately 2,900 companies includes all elements of real estate finance: mortgage companies, mortgage brokers, commercial banks, thrifts, life insurance companies and others in the mortgage lending field. For additional information, visit MBA's Web site: www.mortgagebankers.org.**

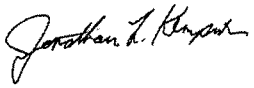
1919 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW | Washington, DC 20006-3404 | www.mortgagebankers.org | (202) 557-2700

Mr. Dorr has represented Rural Development at several MBA events, including speaking on the government housing panel at our Annual Convention and Expo in 2002 and 2003. Likewise, MBA joined Mr. Dorr at Rural Development's National Rural Housing Summit in June 2003.

In the year following his appointment as Under Secretary for Rural Development in June 2002, Mr. Dorr oversaw positive changes to the Rural Housing Service's single-family and multifamily programs. In fact, the changes to the Section 502 Single Family Guaranteed Housing Loan program implemented during his tenure have resulted in increased use of the program by rural families and increased satisfaction with the program by rural lenders.

We appreciate the opportunity to voice our support of Mr. Dorr's appointment and hope to have the opportunity to work with him as Under Secretary for Rural Development in the coming years.

Most sincerely,



Jonathan L. Kempner
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Tom Harkin, Ranking Member

National Association of Latino/Hispanic Farmers & Ranchers
717 D Street, NW
WSBACH Suite 400
Washington, DC 20004
Tel: 202-628-8833
Fax: 202-737-1350
Email: LatinoFarmersandRanchersDC@yahoo.com

April 18, 2005

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar
Senate Dirksen Office Building
Room B40-A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Salazar:

We, Hispanic Americans active in farming, rural businesses, and rural community development, are hereby expressing our support for the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr as Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr recognizes, as we do, that the face of rural America is changing rapidly. Competition in our farms and small towns, both domestic and foreign, is stiff and increasing. Continuing scientific and technological advances mean that farm operators and small businessman must adapt to survive.

Change poses challenges, but it also brings opportunity. Value added businesses, specialty crops, alternative fuels, new generation cooperatives, and new marketing strategies offer ways for small family farmers and businessmen to leverage their resources, stay competitive and grow with an expanding and diversifying rural economy. This is important not only for America's three million farm operators, but also for the 60 million other rural Americans, many of them Hispanic, engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Dorr understands the necessity. He has been one of the most visionary leaders in America today orientating farmers, rural communities, and the USDA to new opportunities and directions. His leadership at Rural Development would provide invaluable focus and direction to this critical transformation, and we urge your support.

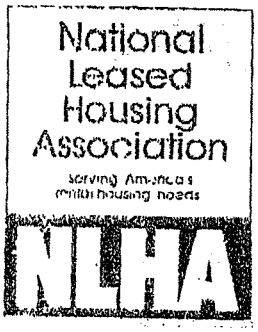
In view of certain past controversies, we wish also to note that Mr. Dorr has been a consistent and effective advocate for increased minority participation in USDA Rural Development programs. We are concerned that his views and record in this matter have been deliberately misrepresented by some individuals and groups with narrow partisan agendas. We hope that you, and the Senate as a whole, will reject such tactics and consider Mr. Dorr's nomination on the merits.

When you do, we are confident you will join with us in our support of Mr. Dorr's nomination. We look forward to working with Mr. Dorr in the years ahead. We hope you will give him, and us, that chance.

Sincerely,

Rudy Arredondo, President/CEO
National Association of Latino/Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers
WSBACH Suite 400, 717 D Street, NW; Washington, DC 20004
Office: (202) 628-8833; Fax: (202) 737-1350

cc: Thomas C. Dorr
Senator Saxby Chambliss



1818 N STREET, N.W. / SUITE 405 / WASHINGTON,D.C. 20036
(202) 785-8888 / FAX (202) 785-2008

March 18, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
328 A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Leased Housing Association (NLHA) represents federally assisted housing providers and administrators. NLHA's members include developers, owners, managers, housing agencies and nonprofit organizations involved in every aspect of the provision of affordable rental housing.

We are writing today in support of the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr to be Under Secretary for Rural Development at the USDA. Much of the nation's affordable stock is aging and has capital needs that must be addressed to ensure their ability to continue to house low and moderate income families in our rural communities. It is imperative that a long-term strategy be developed and implemented to address the aging stock.

We believe Mr. Dorr has the experience and determination to lead such an effort. We urge the committee to confirm Mr. Dorr as Under Secretary of USDA's Rural Development office as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Denise B. Muha
Executive Director

April 21, 2005

Dear Senator Murkowski,

Re: Thomas Dorr, Designee Under Secretary, Rural Development, USDA

I have known Tom Dorr for approximately 3 years. Alaska could not have a better friend at USDA Rural Development.

Tom and his wife Ann have visited Nome and several surrounding villages in Northwest Alaska. They have seen first-hand what Rural Development programs can do to support a community in rural Alaska.

While in Nome, Mr. Dorr witnessed new homes being constructed, extensions and replacements to the City of Nome water and sewer system and saw ambulances Rural Development funds provided. Tom viewed our new power plant, the new movie theater, the senior center and a Subway Restaurant ....all projects funded by Rural Development.

He devoted his time to travel to Unalakleet to visit the new $8 million sub-regional clinic under construction in that community.

Mr. Dorr continued to St. Michael and saw the first ever Ambulance in that community. In Kotlik, he presided over the dedication of the "Fire Station in a Box" – (fire suppression equipment) ...all of the aforementioned projects funded by USDA Rural Development.

Tom Dorr is not an Alaskan, but he's the next best thing. He understands why our state is different, why we need infrastructure and the investment that Rural Development has made and will continue to make here.

In short, Tom Dorr "gets it!" He knows the challenges, and he's seen the ways Rural Development funds, properly invested, reaps great rewards....

I submit that Alaska can have no better advocate in the Undersecretary's Office of Rural Development than Tom Dorr. That's why I'm pleased to support his confirmation of him by the United States Senate.

Best personal regards.

Yours very truly,
Denise Michels
Mayor, City of Nome

Bcc: Bill Allen
761-7784(F)

April 21, 2005

Dear Senator Stevens,

Re: Thomas Dorr, Designee Under Secretary, Rural Development, USDA

I have known Tom Dorr for approximately 3 years. Alaska could not have a better friend at USDA Rural Development.

Tom and his wife Ann have visited Nome and several surrounding villages in Northwest Alaska. They have seen first-hand what Rural Development programs can do to support a community in rural Alaska.

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I submit that Alaska can have no better advocate in the Undersecretary's Office of Rural Development than Tom Dorr. That's why I'm pleased to support his confirmation of him by the United States Senate.

Best personal regards.

Yours very truly,
Denise Michels
Mayor, City of Nome

Bcc: Bill Allen
761-7784(F)

April 21, 2005

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Re: Thomas Dorr, Designee Under Secretary – Rural Development- USDA

The purpose of this letter is to request your support for the senate confirmation of Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary, Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture.

I met Tom Dorr three years ago when he visited Alaska and met with leaders in the State that had a common interest of improving the quality of life in Alaska's rural communities.

It was very clear to me that Mr. Dorr had a deep understanding of the housing needs in rural Alaska. He also expressed his personal commitment and that of Rural Development to assist in meeting the challenges of providing affordable housing in rural communities.

He joined with Senator Murkowski in setting a goal for Federal and State partners in housing to meet in new housing starts in rural Alaska.

I believe Tom is a fried of Alaska and I urge you to support Mr. Dorr's confirmation.

Personal regards.

Yours truly,

DAN FAUSKE

Bcc: Bill Allen

April 21, 2005

Dear Senator Stevens:

Re: Thomas Dorr, Designee Under Secretary – Rural Development- USDA

The purpose of this letter is to request your support for the senate confirmation of Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary, Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture.

I met Tom Dorr three years ago when he visited Alaska and met with leaders in the State that had a common interest of improving the quality of life in Alaska's rural communities.

It was very clear to me that Mr. Dorr had a deep understanding of the housing needs in rural Alaska. He also expressed his personal commitment and that of Rural Development to assist in meeting the challenges of providing affordable housing in rural communities.

He joined with Senator Murkowski in setting a goal for Federal and State partners in housing to meet in new housing starts in rural Alaska.

I believe Tom is a fried of Alaska and I urge you to support Mr. Dorr's confirmation.

Personal regards.

Yours truly,

DAN FAUSKE

Bcc: Bill Allen

BFAA

Black Farmers & Agriculturalists Association
Arkansas Chapter
7412 Suburbia Drive
Pine Bluff, AR 71603-8951
(870) 879-1610 bfaa@sbcglobal.net Fax (870) 879-0368

Larry Rasberry, Chairman
Harrison Lock President
Evelyn Bryant, Secretary

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Democratic Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6000

Dear Honorable Senator Harkin:

My name is Fernando Burkett, and I am the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association (BFAA). I also serve as the liaison person for BFAA and the Executive Director for the Arkansas BFAA chapter. The purpose of this letter from our national and state organization is to lend our support on behalf of Mr. Tom Dorr who is the Senior Advisor for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

We hold Mr. Dorr as a valuable asset to our organization and its future. He is one of the individuals that has played a major role in bridging the gap between the small, limited resource and minority producers for our organization and the USDA. Mr. Dorr has journeyed to the great state of Arkansas on several occasions. His knowledge and expertise has opened a whole new world for this organization and the clients we serve. Without my invitation and on his own instincts, Mr. Dorr has taken the time to return to Arkansas to personally visit with me in his efforts to find ways he can best serve the small, limited resource, minority producers and farmers alike. This is one of the things that has impressed me about him; because in my position with this organization, it is rare that any top ranking official takes time out to visit ground-zero organizations such as BFAA.

I have come to rely on his guidance when we are in need of assistance, it is also my belief that he will play a vital role in the future survival of the small farmers. If I can be of any assistance to you on this matter, please feel free to call me at (870) 879-1610 or by writing to the above address at your earliest convenience. Thanking you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Fernando Burkett

Fernando Burkett
Executive Director

BFAA

Black Farmers & Agriculturalists Association
Arkansas Chapter
7412 Suburbia Drive
Pine Bluff, AR 71603-8951
(870) 879-1610 bfaa@sbcglobal.net Fax (870) 879-0368

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Sincerely,

Fernando Burkett

Fernando Burkett
Executive Director

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC)

NeighborWorks
CHARTERED MEMBER

March 1, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6000

Dear Chairman Chambliss:

I am writing this letter in support of Tom Dorr as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development.

I met Mr. Dorr in Washington, DC when he was serving as the acting Under Secretary for Rural Development and was impressed with his passion for small farmers. Quite frankly, when I first met Tom, I was not expecting him to be particularly supportive of our needs. But, over the years that we have worked together I have found him to be a great ally and a tireless fighter for the causes that we both support. Even before The President re-appointed him to this position, I wrote the then Secretary-Designee a letter advising him of our support for this fine USDA official (copy attached).

Tom has traveled to the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) facility in Brinkley, Arkansas, which is not an easy task since we are located in the middle of the constituency that we serve. Despite the fact that Brinkley is more than 75 miles from the nearest airport, Tom had made the trek here to meet with our farmer and tour their co-ops and agribusinesses.

Furthermore, from his position in Washington, he has demonstrated that he is a true friend of the small farmers. He has worked with us to find the resources and support necessary to help build a stronger and more economically vibrant Rural America.

I could go on with further examples of how Tom has worked to support us, but I think you understand what we think about him here in rural Arkansas.

If you have any questions or if I can provide you with any further background on my experiences with Mr. Dorr, please feel free to contact me at 870-734-1140.

Sincerely,

Dr. Calvin R. King, Sr., President/CEO

Cc: Secretary Mike Johanns, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250

484 Floyd Brown Drive • Post Office Box 743 • Brinkley, AR 72021
Phone: 870-734-1140 Fax: 870-734-4197

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC)

NeighborWorks
CHARTERED MEMBER

March 1, 2005

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Ranking Democratic Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510-6000

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Furthermore, from his position in Washington, he has demonstrated that he is a true friend of the small farmers. He has worked with us to find the resources and support necessary to help build a stronger and more economically vibrant Rural America.

I could go on with further examples of how Tom has worked to support us, but I think you understand what we think about him here in rural Arkansas. Senator, I understand that you have had some concerns with Mr. Dorr in the past. However, I strongly urge you to reconsider your position. I have found him to be one of our best friends not only at USDA but possibly in all of official Washington.

If you have any questions or if I can provide you with any further background on my experiences with Mr. Dorr, please feel free to contact me at 870-734-1140.

Sincerely,

Dr. Calvin R. King, Sr., President/CEO

Cc: Secretary Mike Johanns, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250

484 Floyd Brown Drive • Post Office Box 743 • Brinkley, AR 72021
Phone: 870-734-1140 Fax: 870-734-4197

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC)

NeighborWorks
CHARTERED MEMBER

December 10, 2004

The Honorable Governor Mike Johanns
Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Your Nomination by President George W. Bush for Secretary of Agriculture

Dear Governor Johanns:

Congratulations on your nomination for the position of Secretary of Agriculture. It was most impressive and pleasing to see your background, experience and recognized insight on the needs of America's agriculture community and rural economic development.

Under the leadership of Secretary Ann Veneman, and the support of Assistant Secretary Vernon Parker, Thomas Dorr, and Scott Mexic, Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) was successful to partner with USDA to address some of the many pressing issues facing limited-resource and minority farmers in Arkansas. While the problems have not been resolved, ALFDC through its working relationship with USDA has developed and implemented a programmatic strategic process that is responsive and effective in addressing the needs and issues of rural communities. Programs that involve job creation, and economic growth, structured on a land-based approach. While the strategy and partnerships have been effectively applied more work is needed for a more comprehensive impact in the following:

I. Support of small family farms and limited-resource farmers.

Strengthen and expand outreach programs that provide training and technical support to youth, limited-resource, minority, beginning and re-entering farmers. This would include full funding for Section 2501 program authorization of $25 million: "Outreach, Training and Technical Assistance program" to assist minority farmers. Community-based organizations with experience in this area are specifically authorized to receive funding to implement the program. Such programs are essential for overcoming start-up difficulties, maintaining operations, and helping farmers make the difficult transition to alternative agricultural enterprises, and training youth for entry into farming.

II. Preservation of minority-owned farms.

Support the Office of Civil Rights on the enforcement of recommendations with regard to equitable treatment of minority farmers by USDA agencies. These recommendations have

484 Floyd Brown Drive • Post Office Box 743 • Brinkley, AR 72021
Phone: 870-734-1140 Fax: 870-734-4197

been presented in the U. S. Civil Rights Commission's 1982 report, *"The Decline of Black Farming in America"*, the July 25, 1990 report of the U. S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Operation, 1997 report of the Civil Rights Action Team and the 1998 report, *"A Time to Act,"* of the USDA National Commission on Small Farms.

III. Support for land ownership.

Access to land for beginning farmers, particularly minorities is a fundamental barrier that can be overcome through community-based organization programs structured to bank land and make land available to beginning and limited-resource farmers. Coordinated targeting of USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) inventory property (land), operating loans and alternative financing for minority farmers to address past patterns of poor customer service.

ALFDC is committed to a comprehensive strategy to enhance family farm development, housing and technology opportunities for farm and rural families, rural economic development projects and innovative, safe and sustainable agriculture initiatives. This strategy is founded on two (2) main concepts. First, that land is the primary natural resource in the rural environment. Second, that agriculture and its related industries comprise a major part of the cultural heritage of rural people.

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) was founded in 1980 by a group of small farmers, landowners, and rural residents. Now we are in our twenty-fifth (25th) year of operation as a non-profit 501 © 3 tax exempt organization. ALFDC has a commitment to sustainable rural community development as our highest value. Our work is guided by the belief that progressive social change and land ownership are the basis for self-determination and self-reliance.

ALFDC has a demonstrated track record for partnership program delivery with USDA and rural America. We look forward to our continued working partnership in the future with even greater success, particularly with the Office of Civil Rights.

I hope to discuss our aforementioned and on-going program partnerships with you in the near future.

Again, congratulations.

Respectfully,

Dr. Calvin R. King, Sr., President/CEO

Pc: Senator Blanche Lincoln, D-Arkansas
Senator Mark Prior, D-Arkansas
Mr. J. D. Davis, ALFDC Vice President/CFO
Mr. Olly Neal, Jr., Chairman of the Board

484 Floyd Brown Drive • Post Office Box 743 • Brinkley, AR 72021
Phone: 870-734-1140 Fax: 870-734-4197

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Department of Agriculture
www.ag.state.co.us

700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000
(303) 239-4100
(303) 239-4125 FAX

Bill Owens, Governor
Don Ament, Commissioner
Sheldon R. Jones, Deputy Commissioner

March 30, 2005

Senator Wayne Allard
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202.224.6471

Senator Allard:

I am writing to support the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr as Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. Through my interaction with Tom, I have found him to have a great passion for rural development.

Tom has made a tremendous impact in this area, specifically by expediting programs and implementing management efficiencies through the release of $762 million authorized in the farm bill that reduced the backlog of community water/wastewater infrastructure applications. In addition, he utilized private sector resources to expedite the review and announcement of $37 million in Value Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants.

Tom developed performance standards by measuring outcomes rather than outputs and increased the awareness and understanding of USDA Rural Development programs through expanded outreach and employee customer service. He conducted the first national management meeting of USDA Rural Development senior staff to break down barriers between agencies and ensure field staff increased their efforts to reach out to organizations and individuals who qualified for rural development programs.

In my capacity as Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture, I have met with Tom when he has traveled to Colorado and have worked with him while he served as Senior Advisor to former Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman. As a fourth generation family farmer, he has a vision for successful farming and ranching, and his business and problem solving skills enable him to tackle difficult issues.

Thank you for your consideration of Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development.

Sincerely,

Don Ament
Commissioner

c: Senator Saxby Chamliss, Fax: 202.224.0103
Senator Tom Harkin, Fax: 202.224.9369

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Department of Agriculture
www.ag.state.co.us

700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000
(303) 239-4100
(303) 239-4125 FAX

Bill Owens, Governor
Don Ament, Commissioner
Sheldon R. Jones, Deputy Commissioner

March 30, 2005

Senator Ken Salazar
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202.228.5036

Senator Salazar:

I am writing to support the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr as Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. Through my interaction with Tom, I have found him to have a great passion for rural development.

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Thank you for your consideration of Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development.

Sincerely,

Don Ament
Commissioner

City of Trinidad
Office of the City Manager
P.O. Box 880
Trinidad, Colorado 81082
Telephone (719) 846-9843
Fax (719) 846-4140
www.historictrinidad.com

April 19, 2005

Honorable Senator Ken Salazar
380 Russell
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Salazar,

We are requesting your favorable consideration of Tom Dorr as Under Secretary of Rural Development.

The City of Trinidad is a rural community in southern Colorado. We were very appreciative of the fact that someone from Washington, D.C. visited our beautiful State, which, Mr. Dorr has done. Mr. Dorr has been to Trinidad and presented grant checks to Southern Colorado Head Start, Fisher's Peak YMCA, and the Huerfano/Las Animas County Council of Governments last summer.

We were both pleased and impressed that our tax dollars could be seen coming back to our community and helping our constituents. It gave new meaning to "I'm here from the government, and I'm here to help".

USDA Rural Development has invested some $10,491,028.00 into Trinidad and Las Animas County in the last 4 years. We are pleased with the homes, infrastructure, and community facility funding that has helped created an economic impact in this area. Mr. Dorr has a vision and dedication, which benefits the quality of life we continue to instill in our families.

City of Trinidad
Office of the City Manager
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Trinidad, Colorado 81082
Telephone (719) 846-9843
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April 19, 2005

Honorable Senator Wayne Allard
525 Dirksen
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Allard,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor and City Councilmembers
City of Trinidad

Joseph A. Reorda, Mayor

Carmen Sandoval, Mayor Pro-tem

Joseph Bonato, Councilmember

Nick DeBono, Councilmember

Nancy Ellis, Councilmember

Jennie Garduno, Councilmember

Herman Heise, Councilmember

National Bison Association
1400 W. 122nd Ave., Westminster, CO 80234 303-292-2833. Fax 303-292-2564

February 16, 2005

U.S. Senator Wayne Allard
United States Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0605

Dear Senator Allard:

On behalf of the National Bison Association, I am writing to support the appointment of Thomas Dorr as the Undersecretary for Rural Development.

During the past few years, Mr. Dorr has demonstrated a strong commitment to rural development initiatives that can assist independent producers and the communities in which they live. His commitment to cooperative development, and innovating business development programs is a strong asset to the independent ranchers and marketers of American bison.

Please feel free to contact our office for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Dave Carter
Executive Director
National Bison Association

10, February, 05

Senator Wayne Allard
via email: Cory Gardner: cory_gardner@allard.senate.gov

Dear Senator Allard:

I am writing to ask you for your support of Mr. Thomas Dorr, for Undersecretary of Agriculture. Rural communities are in need of strong advocates that understand the issues and are willing to work together, regardless of party affiliations. I don't believe it is an exaggeration to say that in our lifetime we may bear witness to the extinction of many of our rural communities. Left without critical infrastructure services such as broadband and working models that provide a path towards achieving long-term sustainability, many communities do not currently have the tools they need to pro-actively engage in self-determining activities. Entitlement, as well intended as it may have originally been, is surely the beginning of the end.

As a leader in rural development USDA is in a pivotal position to guide our rural communities towards paths that provide for vital community development and long-term sustainability. It is imperative that we carefully select our leaders for rural development and base our choices on common goals and values. While there will surely be areas of disagreement regarding how to engage with and help rural communities, I believe the common ground lies in recognizing the value these communities bring to our country and a consensus that they must have the tools and models they need to support, participate and benefit from our nation's prosperous well-being. Mr. Dorr is long noted for his passionate support and valuing of our rural communities.

If a leader is known by the company he keeps, then Mr. Dorr is in good stead. By surrounding himself with strong advocates such as Gigi Dennis, Colorado USDA Rural Development State Director, Mr. Dorr is effectively preparing himself and the organization to meet and address the challenges it faces in the next four years.

As a project director for broadband deployment based in the San Luis Valley, I have seen first-hand the need for dedicated, well-informed and forward-thinking leadership on both a statewide and national level. In Colorado, we have accomplished more than most, and it is my sincere hope that during the confirmation process that you are able to influence your peers to select a person that embodies these values regardless of personality or party. I believe that Mr. Dorr is such a candidate.

I believe that a steadfast commitment to all of Colorado's communities, both those that are rural and those that "used to be" rural, is the key to our mutual success. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our future and well-being.

Kind Regards,

Kristin E. Johnston
Co-Director, the "Next Mile" Project
www.slvdrg.org/nextmile.org
303-880-0183 cell
719-589-6099 office

March 18, 2005

The Honorable Ken Salazar
U.S. Senator
40-A Dirkson Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Salazar:

Colorado Farm Bureau, our state's largest agricultural organization, supports Thomas C. Dorr for the position of USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development. We believe he has the background, skills and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts.

Our support for Mr. Dorr comes through his and our efforts working together in Colorado on behalf of our farmers and ranchers. We need his strong leadership to help sustain agriculture and rural economies in Colorado and through out nation.

Again, we strongly urge your support and a vote for his confirmation in the Senate.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alan Foutz
President

/rc

Senator Chambliss, Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee
Senator Harkin, Senate Agriculture Committee
Secretary Johanns, US Department of Agriculture
Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

30 January 05

Senator Ken Salazar
SDB-40A Senate Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Salazar,

I would like to once again thank you for your very kind remarks about my family and Wray, CO at the Environment and Clean Energy Inaugural Ball. We are very proud of our many community-minded citizens in Wray (not the least of which is my grandmother!). Rural areas like Wray and the San Luis Valley will undoubtedly continue to provide vision for unique and creative processes and designs that will serve as models to strengthen our rural communities nationwide; from the development of community-owned renewable energy systems, to critical broadband deployment, to the creation of value-added agricultural enterprises. Our state Rural Development office, under the leadership of Gigi Dennis, has been an invaluable resource in turning these visions and processes into reality.

The success of any rural endeavor, whether it is at the community level or concerning a nationwide issue, will depend on committed individuals from both sides of the political fence. From a Colorado perspective, I credit the success of Amendment 37 to the willingness of the Republican co-chair Lola Spradley and Democratic Congressman Mark Udall to unite the forces for positive change...because it was in the best interest of the citizens of the state to do so. From a Wray perspective, our success in achieving a $350,000 Department of Local Affairs grant for our Wind Turbine project was made possible because of its broad support of both Democratic and Republican leadership. In fact, our very first letter of support came as a *joint* letter of support from Congressman Mark Udall and Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave. Since then, the Congressman has formed a task force to identify the barriers that exist in Colorado: those which prevent the agricultural communities of rural Colorado from gaining access to transmission that could serve the green power demand of his constituents. Congresswoman Musgrave's staff participates in this roundtable, and once again we are seeing the fruits of this bipartisan effort.

Over the past year I have had the opportunity and the pleasure to work with Tom Dorr. My personal passion is rural vitality; our best chance to maintain and improve the status of the communities we hold dear will be found in ways that promote local ownership as well as the development of value-added agricultural enterprises: trapping wealth locally for the benefit of the communities citizens. Mr. Dorr has been a real help to me in working through the process of how we can best achieve this goal. He brings a fresh perspective to the process, and I've found him to be genuinely interested in making positive changes in the way USDA affects rural communities. There are many opportunities for positive change before us, and it is my hope that we don't travel down the road of partisanship as Mr. Dorr's confirmation gets underway. The time to implement our positive vision for rural America is now, and there is a place for all of us at the table – from the family-farm advocates to the larger agricultural enterprises of the eastern plains. From personal experience, I know he is committed to that vision for rural communities. I hope you will give Mr. Dorr your full and fair consideration when deciding upon your support for his nomination. It is my belief that once again we have an opportunity for bi-partisanship to pave the way for an exciting and bold future for all of the stakeholders in rural Colorado.

I have attached the pdf for the brochure that was created for the Inaugural Ball. I believe I gave Ken Lane and yourself a copy, but later realized that what you were given was the draft version.

With best personal regards,

Michael Bowman
Wray, CO 80758

March 17, 2005

The Honorable Senator Wayne Allard
United States Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Allard,

On behalf of the potato growers of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee we urge you to support Tom Dorr as the President's appointee as the USDA Under Secretary of Rural Development. Mr. Dorr has extensive knowledge and experience in agriculture and rural America.

As a recipient of a Value Added Grant from USDA Rural Development, I understand the value of Mr. Dorr's experience in helping rural America help itself. As we shift Farm Bill resources away from government price supports to more WTO friendly farm programs, its going to be important they we have trusted and proven leadership to guide the economic development of our rural communities. Tom Dorr provides that leadership. As Senior Advisor to the USDA Secretary, Mr. Dorr leadership was tested and proved effective as he tackled tough farm issues dealing with management of the National Finance Center in New Orleans, minority farmer issues with Vernon Parker, Assistant Administrator for Civil Rights, and APHIS on animal identification issues.

This is a critical time for American agriculture as we have to find creative ways to keep our rural communities alive as we transition away from farm price support programs. We need to act quickly in confirming Tom Dorr as the USDA Under Secretary of Rural Development. As discussions begin on the new Farm Bill, it's important to have a strong leader in place to insure that we will have new economic development programs in place to prevent the demise of rural America as we shift away from price support programs. Thank you for your consideration in this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Chris Voigt
Executive Director

April 14, 2005

The Honorable Wayne Allard
United States Senator
525 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Allard:

We urge your favorable vote for Thomas C. Dorr, Nominee for Under Secretary Rural Development, Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Dorr has shown great interest and support for southern Colorado, visiting even the smallest communities in the Action 22 area. He supports racial diversity at USDA directing staffs to be more proactive in reaching out to deserving minorities. With the concerns about the United States declining farming industry, Mr. Dorr has provided his vision of an efficient farming operation, which is something southern Colorado is looking at improving and in "thinking out of the box" to enhance the industry.

I have met Mr. Dorr and was very impressed with his vision and his impacts, especially in the area of Rural Development. The Action 22 area, consisting of 22 counties, has 15 counties in the bottom third of media income and rural development is very much needed.

We urge your concurrence with the nomination of Mr. Dorr as Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Cathy Garcia

Catherine A Garcia
President/COO

April 14, 2005

The Honorable Ken Salazar
United States Senator
SDB-40A Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Salazar:

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We urge your concurrence with the nomination of Mr. Dorr as Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Cathy Garcia

Catherine A Garcia
President/COO

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Land Assistance Fund

Public Relations and Fundraising Office
2769 Church Street
East Point, GA 30344

Telephone (404) 765-0991
Facsimile (404) 765-9178
E-mail fsc@mindspring.com
www.federationsoutherncoop.com

RALPH PAIGE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Eddie Ayers
ALABAMA

Daniel Bustamante
TEXAS
MISSOURI
LOUISIANA

Chaplain
G.L. Twitty
AT LARGE

Norwood Davis
AT LARGE

Robert S. Browne
AT LARGE

Rural Training
and
Research Center
P.O. Box 95
Epes, AL 35460
205-652-9676

March 23, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss **Fax: (202) 224-0103**
United States Senator
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mr. Thomas Dorr for USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development. I am personally endorsing his nomination because of his deep interest in rural development. He has made several visits to the communities within the Federation's network and has a great understanding of the needs of rural poor communities. He is the man for the job.

I appreciate your support for his nomination.

Sincerely,

Ralph Paige

Ralph Paige

CF: Thomas Dorr ✓

Combined Federal Campaign Number: 1607

LINDA LINGLE
Governor

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

April 22, 2005

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2201

Dear Senator Inouye:

Re: Nomination of Thomas Dorr as Undersecretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture

I am writing to request your support for the confirmation of Thomas Dorr as Undersecretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, whose confirmation hearing is scheduled before the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, April 26, 2005.

I have met personally with Mr. Dorr several times as he served as special assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture and found him to be a staunch advocate for rural economic development throughout the nation. More importantly, he is supportive of agricultural and rural development in Hawaii. He has been involved in assisting Hawaii farmers and growers by helping to create value-added programs, which increase the value of various Hawaii crops.

Mr. Dorr is also familiar with the uniqueness of Hawaii and the important role agriculture plays in our history, culture and economy. In addition to working with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Mr. Dorr has assisted the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in rural development initiatives.

Over the years, Mr. Dorr has proved to be a friend to Hawaii and I respectfully request your support for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Chairperson
Hawaii Board of Agriculture

LINDA LINGLE
Governor

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

April 22, 2005

The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2201

Dear Senator Akaka:

Re: Nomination of Thomas Dorr as Undersecretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture

I am writing to request your support for the confirmation of Thomas Dorr as Undersecretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, whose confirmation hearing is scheduled before the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, April 26, 2005.

I have met personally with Mr. Dorr several times as he served as special assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture and found him to be a staunch advocate for rural economic development throughout the nation. More importantly, he is supportive of agricultural and rural development in Hawaii. He has been involved in assisting Hawaii farmers and growers by helping to create value-added programs, which increase the value of various Hawaii crops.

Mr. Dorr is also familiar with the uniqueness of Hawaii and the important role agriculture plays in our history, culture and economy. In addition to working with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Mr. Dorr has assisted the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in rural development initiatives.

Over the years, Mr. Dorr has proved to be a friend to Hawaii and I respectfully request your support for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Chairperson
Hawaii Board of Agriculture

Office of the Governor of Guam

P.O. Box 2950 Hagåtña, Guam 96932
TEL: (671) 472-8931 • FAX: (671) 477-4826 • EMAIL: governor@mail.gov.gu

Felix Perez Camacho
Governor

Kaleo Scott Moylan
Lieutenant Governor

Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
United States Senator
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax # (202) 224-2126

Dear Senator Akaka:

I would first like to take this opportunity to commend you on your distinguished leadership in the U.S. Senate. I personally look forward to working with you in promoting the unique relationship between the U.S., Guam, and the Pacific region.

The purpose of this letter is to formally convey my support for the nomination of Mr. Thomas Dorr as the Undersecretary for the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. The confirmation hearing for Mr. Dorr is scheduled for April 26, 2005.

During Mr. Dorr's tenure as the Acting Undersecretary, Guam has witnessed many opportunities and financial resources become available for housing, infrastructure, community facilities, and business development. With the many challenges that exist in each of these sectors, USDA Rural Development has evolved as a key partner in leveraging of our local resources to meet these financial challenges.

An excellent example is a $13.5 million loan made available to finance the construction of a new College of Professional Studies building at the University of Guam, the only four (4) year higher education institution in the entire Western Pacific. Without the assistance of USDA Rural Development, this much needed project may not have become a reality. This new facility will have a long term impact in support of human resource development to prepare our citizens in Guam and those from the former U.S. Trust Territories to compete in the global economy.

Accordingly, I humbly seek your support to favorably consider confirming Mr. Dorr for the position. Your assistance on this hearing process will most likely contribute to further the development of resources on Guam and the Freely Associated States in the Western Pacific.

Your continued support and guidance are some appreciated by our people.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

Sincerely yan Magåhet,

FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga' Lahen Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Office of the Governor of Guam

P.O. Box 2950 Hagåtña, Guam 96932
TEL: (671) 475-8931 · FAX: (671) 477-4826 · EMAIL: governor@guamgov.gu

Felix Perez Camacho
Governor

Kaleo Scott Moylan
Lieutenant Governor

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
United States Senator
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1102
Fax: 1 (202) 224-6747

Dear Senator Inouye:

I would first like to take this opportunity to commend you on your distinguished leadership in the U.S. Senate. I personally look forward to working with you in promoting the unique relationship between the U.S., Guam, and the Pacific region.

The purpose of this letter is to formally convey my support for the nomination of Mr. Thomas Dorr as the Undersecretary for the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. The confirmation hearing for Mr. Dorr is scheduled for April 26, 2005.

During Mr. Dorr's tenure as the Acting Undersecretary, Guam has witnessed many opportunities and financial resources become available for housing, infrastructure, community facilities, and business development. With the many challenges that exist in each of these sectors, USDA Rural Development has evolved as a key partner in leveraging of our local resources to meet these financial challenges.

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Your continued support and guidance are most appreciated by our people.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase!

Sincerely yan Magåhet,

FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga' Lähen Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Fort Dodge Center • 330 Avenue M • Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501 • (515) 576 7201
1-800-362 2793 • Website: http://www.iccc.cc.ia.us

April 22, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Chair
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
Russel Senate Office Building
Room 328 A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

I am writing in strong support of Mr. Tom Dorr for his Under Secretary of Agriculture appointment. As you know from our discussions with Congressman Latham, Mr. Dorr is a friend of mine who I personally believe will do a very good job as Under Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. Dorr has had a long and distinguished career of serving the state of Iowa and has a wealth of knowledge and experience that will help guide him as he leads the USDA Rural Development Agency. Please support his nomination when he appears before your committee.

Thank you for your consideration and best wishes.

James B. Kersten
Associate V.P. of Development and Government Relations

Cc: Senator Charles Grassley
Senator Tom Harkin
Secretary Johanns

FORT DODGE CENTER
330 Avenue M
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 576-7201

STORM LAKE CENTER
916 N. Russell Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-2991

WEBSTER CITY CENTER
1725 Beach Street
Webster City, IA 50595
(515) 832-1632

3402 Eisenhower Ave
Ames, Iowa 50010
515-232-1531
drkeeney@iastate.edu

June 25, 2003

Tom Dorr
Undersecretary of Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington DC 20250

Dear Tom:

I understand your nomination is nearly complete, pending a possible filibuster from Senator Harkin. Congratulations.

I write to apologize for appearing at your hearing in 2002. It was something I should have said no to right off, but did not. Then it sort of drug on and I had to go through with the appearance or "lose face". That still does not make it right. I recently read an interesting book that chronicled the Clinton years. The book is "The Natural, The Misunderstood Presidency of Bill Clinton". The author is Joe Klein. I am not recommending the book particularly, because it ends up affirming what most of us thought of Clinton, but Klein spends a chapter going over the history of politics in the US and how it has changed to such an adversary art. It was during the reading of this book that I realized that I had become part of that mudslinging and character assassination. That is not the type of legacy I would like to leave.

Our disagreements were minor, and should have been left in private. I will never sign on to your assessment of how the agriculture of Iowa should look, but must admit that your vision is the more likely outcome. Over the last few years I have realized that it better to get to the most stable agriculture in Iowa with as little social and environmental upheaval as possible. I imagine that would fit with your thinking.

You have been misunderstood, and made a poster child for big agriculture. I am sure that has not particularly bothered you. But I have not been proud of my little part in helping paint that picture.

Good luck in the remainder of your term, however long that may be. Maybe sometime when we are in the same orbit we can have a talk about the old times. And yes, retirement is agreeing with me. I have never regretted the decision to get out of the system because it is largely broke anyway.

Sincerely,

Dennis Keeney
Emeritus Professor
Iowa State University

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA BLACK FARMERS
AND LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
3873 HENDERSON LOOP
SONDHEIMER, LA. 71276

February 21, 2005

Hon. Tom Harkin, U.S. Senator
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6000

Dear Senator Harkin:

This Organization, known as the Northeast Louisiana Black Farmers and Landowners Association gives sincere support for the confirmation of Mr. Thomas Dorr as Under-Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture for Rural Development. Mr. Door have made great accomplishments in this position and has earned the trust from rural Americans to carry out this mission.

We feel that Mr. Dorr will continue his compassion towards the development of rural areas of this country and will continue to be very productive in his tenure as Under-Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture for Rural America.

Your full support in this particular matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Dexter L. Davis, President

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA BLACK FARMERS
AND LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
3873 HENDERSON LOOP
SONDHEIMER, LA. 71276

February 21, 2005

Hon. Saxby Chambliss, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6000

Dear Senator Chamblis:

This letter being sent to your attention is in full support for the confirmation of Mr. Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture for Rural Development. He has made several trips to the Mississippi Delta to evaluate the needs and concerns of those in the rural areas. His leadership in this capacity is very much needed by those who has gained trust in him.

Mr. Dorr's conformation will be valued as it would become a continued asset to the Department and also to rural America. We are diligently seeking your full support to Mr. Dorr's confirmation.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Dexter Davis, President

Gregory M. Davids
State Representative
Speaker Pro Tempore
District 31B
Fillmore and Houston Counties

Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: CHAIR, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
TECHNOLOGY, BIOSCIENCE AND MEDICAL PRODUCTS DIVISION
TOURISM DIVISION
TAXES

April 18, 2005

Senator Norm Coleman
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coleman:

I would like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage you to support and vote for Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development of the US Department of Agriculture.

President George W. Bush, in nominating Mr. Dorr for this key position at USDA Rural Development, in expressing his confidence in the outstanding work already performed by Mr. Dorr at USDA Rural Development when he served as Under Secretary.

I would like to focus on three key reasons why Mr. Dorr should be confirmed by the Senate as Under Secretary. First, Mr. Dorr is a person of outstanding character and integrity. During the time that he served as Under Secretary, Mr. Dorr provided strong leadership in the Department on matters relating to a strict adherence of ethics, of the rules and regulations governing the agency, and strict accountability concerning the Administration of budget matters within USDA Rural Development.

Second, Mr. Dorr proved himself to be a competent administrator of USDA Rural Development during the time that he served as Under Secretary. Mr. Dorr is a man of great vision and he provided strong direction and leadership to the state directors who administrate USDA Rural Development Programs at the state level. Mr. Dorr possesses excellent financial and business expertise. He also during that time at USDA Rural Development forged new and creative relationships with non-profits, community economic development organizations, and government leaders at the state and local levels. In implementing the 2002 US Farm Bill, Mr. Dorr effectively utilized private sector resources to help expedite the review and announcement of $37 million in Value Added, Renewable Energy, and Broadband provisions of the Farm Bill. Mr. Dorr has also forged new leadership in implementing the renewable energy provisions of the 2002 Farm bill. Minnesota has received the largest allocation of any state in the nation from these renewable energy funds, and we thank Mr. Dorr for his leadership here.

P.O. Box 32, Preston, Minnesota 55965 (507) 765-2790
State Office Building, 100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1298 (651) 296-9278
FAX: (651) 296-4121 TTY: (651) 296-9896 Email: rep.greg.davids@house.mn (800) 551-9145

Third and finally, Mr. Dorr is a fourth generation farmer from Iowa. He has the hands on skills of knowing what agriculture and rural economic development is all about. I commend President George Bush for his appointment of Thomas Dorr to this key position so vital to the future of rural Minnesota and rural America. I might add that in the time that Mr. Dorr served as Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development he made at least three trips that I am aware to Minnesota to announce projects of key importance to the rural areas of our state. I speak for everyone in the rural community when I say that we are grateful to Mr. Dorr for the good work that he done for us in the state of Minnesota.

Senator Coleman, I strongly urge you to support and vote for Thomas C. Dorr's nomination as Under Secretary of USDA Rural Development. I thank you for the opportunity to express my views to you on this important matter.

With appreciation.

Sincerely,

Gregory M. Davids, Chair
House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

Greg Blaine
State Representative
Assistant Majority Whip

District 12B
Morrison and Crow Wing Counties

Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: VICE CHAIR, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

April 18, 2005

The Honorable Norm Coleman
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coleman:

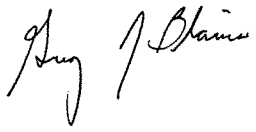
I am writing to encourage you to support the confirmation of Thomas Dorr as U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

During Mr. Dorr's previous tenure as Under Secretary for Rural Development, he proved to be a person of great vision, administrative ability, and financial expertise. He provided strong direction and leadership to the state directors who administrate USDA Rural Development programs. In addition, he forged new and creative relationships with nonprofits, community economic development organizations, and government leaders at the state and local level. In implementing the 2002 U.S. Farm Bill, Mr. Dorr effectively utilized private-sector resources to help expedite the review and announcement of $37 million in Value Added, Renewable Energy, and Broadband provisions of the Farm Bill. Mr. Dorr also broke new ground in implementing the renewable energy provisions of the Farm Bill. Minnesota received the largest allocation of any state in the nation from these renewable energy funds, and we thank Mr. Dorr for his leadership on this.

Also during Mr. Dorr's previous tenure as Under Secretary, he made at least three trips to Minnesota to announce projects of key importance to the rural areas of our state. I speak for many in rural Minnesota when I say that we are grateful to Mr. Dorr for the good work that he has done.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to support and vote for Thomas Dorr's nomination as Under Secretary of USDA Rural Development, especially since he is already a "known quantity" in this role. Thank you for your consideration and for all you do to represent our great state in Washington.

Sincerely,



Rep. Greg Blaine, Vice Chair
House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee
GB/rnew

14868 Dove Road, Little Falls, Minnesota 56345 (320) 632-3576
545 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1298 (651) 296-4247
Email: rep.greg.blaine@house.leg.state.mn.us TOLL FREE: 888-727-4612 FAX (651) 297-2668

Sanders, MichaelA -OM

From: sharonw1@hickorytech.net%inter2 [sharonw1@hickorytech.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2005 3:00 PM
To: greaterstate2002@yahoo.com%inter2
Subject: Coleman-support for Dorrs

April 21, 2005

Senator Norm Coleman
320 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coleman,

On behalf of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association we are pleased to support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Rural infrastructure is extremely important to our members. Investments in broadband technology and other basic infrastructure make rural Minnesota more attractive to employees of farms and the next generation of farm owners.

Mr. Dorr has been successful in a short period of time in getting through red tape and expediting programs. These skills are badly needed in government. Having government programs to assist rural America is one thing but implemention is what is really important.

Mr. Dorr actions thus far have demonstrated that he is extremely capable and we support him without reservation.

Sincerely,

David Preisler
MPPA Executive Director

Larry Liepold
MPPA President

April 22, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chamliss
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

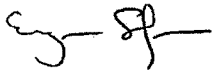
Dear Senator:

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural Minnesota. We work with farmers and members of rural communities and understand their needs and challenges. It is important that we have strong leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value-added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to ensure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help ensure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,



Gene Sandager, President
Minnesota Corn Growers Association

April 22, 2005

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

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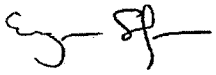

Gene Sandager, President
Minnesota Corn Growers Association

April 25, 2005

The Honorable Norm Coleman
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural Minnesota. We work with farmers and members of rural communities and understand their needs and challenges. It is important that we have strong leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value-added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to ensure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

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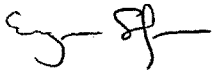
Sincerely,



Gene Sandager, President
Minnesota Corn Growers Association

Messerli
&
Kramer
professional association

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES BUILDING
SUITE 450, 145 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55103-2044
TELEPHONE (651) 228-9757
FACSIMILE (651) 228-9787

HORIZED TO PRACTICE LAW IN
MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN, IOWA,
SOUTH DAKOTA, WASHINGTON D.C.,
COLORADO, ILLINOIS AND CALIFORNIA

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE
1800 FIFTH STREET TOWERS
150 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55402-4218
TELEPHONE (612) 672-3600
FACSIMILE (612) 672-3777

April 21, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Attn: Legislative Director
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

VIA FAX: 202-224-0103

RE: Thomas C. Dorr
Nomination – USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Shortly, you will be voting on the confirmation of Thomas C. Dorr to serve as Under Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I want to encourage your support for Mr. Dorr and your vote for his confirmation.

I served as the State Director of the former USDA Farmers Home Administration in the late 1970's. In that capacity, I learned how important the efforts of the department are toward improving the lives of people living and working in rural American. The needs of rural Americans are unique and require special attention. I believe that Mr. Dorr has demonstrated his ability to understand those needs and give them the special attention they require.

Through the department's outreach efforts and its employee attention to "customer service," rural people are being better served. Through its emphasis on servicing low income and elderly populations and its efforts to enhance rural cooperatives, the department is assuring better service to rural Americans. And, by running more efficient operations and implementing numerous innovations , the Department of Agriculture is improving its services to rural America.

Thomas Dorr has been at the center of all these efforts. He has been a leader in the fight for better service tot rural American and better operations at the department.

It is time for the Senate to give its confirmation to the nomination of Thomas Dorr for the post of Under Secretary for Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture. I encourage your hearty support.

With best regards,

John F. Apitz
Shareholder

Messerli
&
Kramer
professional association

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES BUILDING
SUITE 450, 145 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST
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1800 FIFTH STREET TOWERS
150 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55402-4218
TELEPHONE (612) 672-3600
FACSIMILE (612) 672-3777

April 21, 2005

The Honorable Norman B. Coleman
United States Senate
320 Hart Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Attention: Jeff Harrison, Legislative Director

Dear Senator Coleman:

Shortly, you will be voting on the confirmation of Thomas C. Dorr to serve as Under Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I want to encourage your support for Mr. Dorr and your vote for his confirmation.

As you are aware, I served as the State Director of the former USDA Farmers Home Administration in the late 1970's. In that capacity, I learned how important the efforts of the department are toward improving the lives of people living and working in rural American. The needs of rural Americans are unique and require special attention. I believe that Mr. Dorr has demonstrated his ability to understand those needs and give them the special attention they require.

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With best regards,

John F. Apitz
Shareholder

Messerli
&
Kramer
professional association

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES BUILDING
SUITE 450, 145 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST
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MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE
1800 FIFTH STREET TOWERS
150 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55402-4218
TELEPHONE (612) 672-3600
FACSIMILE (612) 672-3777

April 21, 2005

The Honorable Mark Dayton
United States Senate
SR-123 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

RE: Thomas C. Dorr
Nomination – USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development

Dear Senator Dayton:

Shortly, you will be voting on the confirmation of Thomas C. Dorr to serve as Under Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I want to encourage your support for Mr. Dorr and your vote for his confirmation.

As you are aware, I served as the State Director of the former USDA Farmers Home Administration in the late 1970's. In that capacity, I learned how important the efforts of the department are toward improving the lives of people living and working in rural American. The needs of rural Americans are unique and require special attention. I believe that Mr. Dorr has demonstrated his ability to understand those needs and give them the special attention they require.

Through the department's outreach efforts and its employee attention to "customer service," rural people are being better served. Through its emphasis on servicing low income and elderly populations and its efforts to enhance rural cooperatives, the department is assuring better service to rural Americans. And, by running more efficient operations and implementing numerous innovations , the Department of Agriculture is improving its services to rural America.

Thomas Dorr has been at the center of all these efforts. He has been a leader in the fight for better service tot rural American and better operations at the department.

It is time for the Senate to give its confirmation to the nomination of Thomas Dorr for the post of Under Secretary for Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture. I encourage your hearty support.

With best regards,

John F. Apitz
Shareholder

TRI-STATE STAKEHOLDERS of the 1890's
P.O. Box 506
Charleston, MS 38921

Officers:

Myron Douglas
President

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Vice-President

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Parliamentarian

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Marty Sabb
Roland Willingham
Peter Williams

February 14, 2005

Hon. Saxby Chambliss, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510-6000

Dear Senator Chambliss:

This letter comes to express our full and unwavering support for the confirmation of Mr. Thomas Dorr as Under-Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture for Rural Development. We have had the opportunity of meeting and working with Mr. Dorr during his several visits to the Mississippi Delta area. The membership of our association found him to be a man of character, as well as a person who has the development of rural areas of our country at heart.

We strongly feel that Mr. Dorr will be an invaluable asset to The Secretary of Agriculture in revitalizing rural areas, strengthening their ability to be part of the productive economy of our great country.

We ask that you give this matter your full support and eagerly await Mr. Dorr's confirmation.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Myron Douglas

cc: The Hon. Thad Cochran, U.S. Senator, State of Mississippi
The Hon. Mike Johanns, Secretary, USDA

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February 14, 2005

Hon. Tom Harkin, U.S. Senator
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510-6000

Dear: Senator Harkin

This letter comes to express our support for the confirmation of Mr. Thomas Dorr as Under-Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture for Rural Development. On his several visits to the Delta area, Mr. Dorr has shown that he is a man of character that can be trusted to serve the people of the rural United States with a passion.

We feel Mr. Dorr is uniquely suited for the position that he is seeking and will be a great asset to the Department as well as to our great country. We ask that you give your full support to Mr. Dorr's confirmation.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Myron Douglas

cc: Hon. Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture

Board of Directors

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Rep. Robert Clark, Chair
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Lawrence Williamson

March 21, 2005

Hon. Tom Harkins, U.S. Senator
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6000

Dear Senator Harkin:

This letter comes in support of Mr. Thomas Dorr, who is seeking confirmation as Under-Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture for Rural Development. During Mr. Dorr's visits to the Mississippi Delta, MACE has come to appreciate his understanding of issues pertaining to development in marginalized communities. We have found him to be very honest, sincere, of good character, and straightforward in business associations.

Tom Dorr has the vision and insight to put forward programs that will bring revitalization to rural / poor communities. He understands that geography is a primary consideration in fostering economic development, a point often overlooked by rural community development professionals.

As Under Secretary for Rural Development, He will be an invaluable asset to the Secretary, and indeed to the USDA in helping marginalized communities and poor people to fully realize the American dream.

We pray that you will give Tom Dorr due diligence in your selection process.

Sincerely yours,

Howard Boutté, Jr.
Executive Director

cc: The Hon. Thad Cochran, U. S. Senator, State of Mississippi
The Hon. Mike Johanns, Secretary, USDA

MISSISSIPPI ACTION FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION, INC.
119 South Theobald Street • Greenville, Mississippi 38701
Telephone: (662) 335-3523 • Fax: (662) 334-2939
e-mail: mace03@bellsouth.net • website: www.deltamace.org

We pray that your committee will give Tom Dorr just consideration in your selection process.

Sincerely yours,

Howard Boutté, Jr.
Executive Director

cc: The Hon. Thad Cochran, U. S. Senator, State of Mississippi
The Hon. Mike Johanns, Secretary, USDA

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Lawrence Williamson

March 21, 2005

Hon. Saxby Chambliss, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6000

Dear Senator Chambliss:

This letter comes in support of Mr. Thomas Dorr, who is seeking confirmation as Under Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture for Rural Development. During the years that we have known Mr. Dorr, MACE has come to appreciate his distinguishing knowledge and keen insight on conditions affecting socially disadvantaged farmers and rural poor communities. We have found him to be very honest, sincere, and straightforward in all of our associations.

MACE is a non-profit, tax exempt, Community Development Corporation that is based in Greenville, Mississippi. Since its inception in 1967, the organization has sought to build capacity among indigent populations to find solutions to the crippling poverty and other factors that prevent their becoming part of the productive economy of the nation.

We are confident that Tom Dorr will work with national, regional, and local entities to develop innovative programs that utilize resources in the most effective manner to make economic inclusion a reality for rural communities and poor people. As Under Secretary for Rural Development, He will be an invaluable asset to the Secretary, and indeed to the USDA in helping marginalized communities and poor people to fully realize the American dream.

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119 South Theobald Street • Greenville, Mississippi 38701
Telephone: (662) 335-3523 • Fax: (662) 334-2939
• email: mace03@bellsouth.net • website: www.deltamace.org

Missouri Pork Association

Creating Opportunities For Our Industry Since 1954

March 16, 2005

The Honorable Christopher Bond
274 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

The Missouri Pork Association makes great efforts to improve production and marketing options and enhance economic opportunities. To assist with this process, we understand that it is critical to have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area and we strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr continues to be a leading advocate for agriculture and strives to insure that all farmers have the opportunity to secure the tools and technology to be competitive.

Tom Dorr can provide the vision and leadership that is so critically needed at USDA Rural Development and his confirmation will help insure that there continues to be opportunities for all farmers. We strongly urge you to support Tom Dorr for this position and to push for a vote on his confirmation in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

Don Nikodim
Executive Vice President

DN:cs

Missouri Pork Association
6235 W. Cunningham Dr.
Columbia, MO 65202
Phone: 573/445-8375
Fax: 573/446-2398
www.mopork.com

Missouri Pork Association

Creating Opportunities For Our Industry Since 1954

March 16, 2005

The Honorable James Talent
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Talent:

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Don Nikodim
Executive Vice President

DN:cs

Missouri Pork Association
6235 W. Cunningham Dr.
Columbia, MO 65202
Phone: 573/445-8375
Fax: 573/446-2398
www.mopork.com

PEMISCOT-DUNKLIN
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.
P.O. Box 657
Hayti, Missouri 63851

573-757-6641 800-558-6641 FAX: 573-757-6656

March 10, 2005

Senator Christopher S. Bond
274 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

Pemiscot-Dunklin Electric Cooperative has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural Missouri. We work with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefitted small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibilities of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

Thomas Fisher

Thomas "Jake" Fisher
Pemiscot-Dunklin Electric Cooperative
Board of Directors, President

PEMISCOT-DUNKLIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.
P.O. Box 657
Hayti, Missouri 63851

573-757-6641 800-558-6641 FAX: 573-757-6656

March 10, 2005

Senator Jim Talent
517 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-2504

Dear Senator Talent:

Pemiscot-Dunklin Electric Cooperative has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural Missouri. We work with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

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Sincerely,

Thomas Fisher

Thomas "Jake" Fisher
Pemiscot-Dunklin Electric Cooperative
Board of Directors, President

MISSOURI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
P.O. Box 658, 701 South Country Club Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65102 / (573) 893-1400

March 7, 2005

The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building #274
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Kit:

It is my understanding that Mr. Tom Dorr will once again be considered by the United States Senate for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development at the United States Department of Agriculture. I have known Tom Dorr personally for some time and believe he is extremely well qualified to serve as the Under Secretary for Rural Development, and I would ask that you vote in favor of his confirmation.

I believe that Tom Dorr brings a wealth of experience to this very important position. President Bush announced his intention to nominate Tom Dorr in March of 2001, however, the Senate did not have an opportunity to vote on his nomination. Subsequently, President Bush appointed Tom Dorr to be the Under Secretary for Rural Development during the August 2002 Congressional recess. Since December 2003, Tom Dorr has served as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture. In this capacity he has worked on a wide range of issues important to agriculture and rural America.

I have been impressed with Tom's problem-solving skills and feel he has proven to be an asset at USDA. It is my hope the Senate will have a chance to vote on his appointment, and I urge you to support his confirmation.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at 573-893-1401.

Sincerely,

Charlie

Charles E. Kruse
President

bcc Greg Branum

MISSOURI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
P.O. Box 658, 701 South Country Club Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65102 / (573) 893-1400

March 7, 2005

The Honorable Jim Talent
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building #493
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Jim:

It is my understanding that Mr. Tom Dorr will once again be considered by the United States Senate for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development at the United States Department of Agriculture. I have known Tom Dorr personally for some time and believe he is extremely well qualified to serve as the Under Secretary for Rural Development, and I would ask that you vote in favor of his confirmation.

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If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at 573-893-1401.

Sincerely,

Charlie

Charles E. Kruse
President

bcc Greg Branum

BOOTHEEL RESOURCE
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.
18450 Ridgeview Lane Dexter, MO 63841
Phone: (573) 624-5939 ext. 6 Fax: (573) 624-6940

March 15, 2005

Honorable Christopher Bond
United States Senator
Federal Building, 339 Broadway, Room 140
Cape Girardeau MO 63701

RE: Confirmation of Thomas C. Dorr, Under Secretary for Rural Development

Dear Senator Bond:

Bootheel Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural Missouri. We work with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. ***Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves your vote of support in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.***

Sincerely,

David Haggard

David Haggard
Chair, Bootheel RC&D, Inc.

BOOTHEEL RESOURCE
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.
18450 Ridgeview Lane Dexter, MO 63841
Phone: (573) 624-5939 ext. 6 Fax: (573) 624-6940

March 15, 2005

Honorable Jim Talent
United States Senator
400 Broadway, Suite 520
Cape Girardeau MO 63701

RE: Confirmation of Thomas C. Dorr, Under Secretary for Rural Development

Dear Senator Talent:

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Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

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Sincerely,

David Haggard

David Haggard
Chair, Bootheel RC&D, Inc.

College of Agriculture,
Food and Natural Resources
Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station
University of Missouri-Columbia

Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean
2-69 Agriculture Building
Columbia, MO 65211-7120
PHONE (573) 882-3846
FAX (573) 884-6539

April 5, 2005

The Honorable Christopher Bond
United States Senate
274 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

The State of Missouri and all Missourians are the focus of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and our research, teaching and outreach activities. Part of our responsibility is advancing rural economic development throughout the state. Our faculty and staff work hard to do this through our research activities in animal and plant sciences and community development and beyond. Our faculty impart knowledge to our students in the classroom in the hope of improving all of Missouri. We partner with many organizations – federal, state and private. USDA Rural Development is one of those very vital and important partners. We depend upon that partnership and strong leadership to help us achieve positive ends for Missouri and beyond.

Mr. Thomas C. Dorr, we believe, is the individual who can best lead USDA Rural Development and help continue our strong partnership. We believe he not only has the passion and skill for the position but the experience necessary to lead the agency. Rural America needs strong leadership and Mr. Dorr can provide it. We encourage you to support his confirmation for that position.

Best regards,

Thomas L. Payne
Vice Chancellor and Dean

TLP/lmh

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTION

College of Agriculture,
Food and Natural Resources
Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station
University of Missouri-Columbia

Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean
2-69 Agriculture Building
Columbia, MO 65211-7120
PHONE (573) 882-3846
FAX (573) 884-6539

April 5, 2005

The Honorable Jim Talent
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Talent:

The State of Missouri and all Missourians are the focus of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and our research, teaching and outreach activities. Part of our responsibility is advancing rural economic development throughout the state. Our faculty and staff work hard to do this through our research activities in animal and plant sciences and community development and beyond. Our faculty impart knowledge to our students in the classroom in the hope of improving all of Missouri. We partner with many organizations – federal, state and private. USDA Rural Development is one of those very vital and important partners. We depend upon that partnership and strong leadership to help us achieve positive ends for Missouri and beyond.

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Best regards,

T. L. Payne

Thomas L. Payne
Vice Chancellor and Dean

TLP/lmh

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTION

DEPARTMENT *of* AGRICULTURE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

FRED FERRELL
DIRECTOR

Serving, promoting and protecting the agricultural producers, processors and consumers of Missouri's food, fuel and fiber products.

March 30, 2005

The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building #274
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

I understand that Mr. Tom Dorr will once again be considered by the United States Senate for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development at the United Sates Department of Agriculture. I have known Tom Dorr for some time and believe he is extremely well qualified to serve as the Under Secretary for Rural Development and I would ask that you vote in favor of his confirmation.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. He has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. Tom has impressive problem solving skills which will be an asset to the position.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-3359.

Sincerely,

Fred Ferrell
Director

Ph. (573) 751-3359 • 1616 Missouri Boulevard • P.O. Box 630 • Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630 • FAX (573) 751-1784 • www.mda.mo.gov

DEPARTMENT *of* AGRICULTURE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

MATT BLUNT
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March 30, 2005

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United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building #493
Washington, DC 20510

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Fred Ferrell
Director

Ph. (573) 751-3359 • 1616 Missouri Boulevard • P.O. Box 630 • Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630 • FAX (573) 751-1784 • www.mda.mo.gov

MISSOURI CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

WORKING TO INCREASE THE PROFITABILITY OF CORN PRODUCTION

3113 Emerald Lane • Jefferson City, Missouri 65109
Phone (573) 893-4181 • Fax (573) 893-4612 • E-mail mcga@mocorn.org • www.mocorn.org

March 1, 2005

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
United States Senate
274 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

The Missouri Corn Growers Association works with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

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Sincerely,

Gary D. Marshall
Chief Executive Officer

GDM:pp

MISSOURI CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

WORKING TO INCREASE THE PROFITABILITY OF CORN PRODUCTION

3118 Emerald Lane • Jefferson City, Missouri 65109
Phone (573) 893-4151 • Fax (573) 893-4612 • E-mail mcga@mocorn.org • www.mocorn.org

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United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Sincerely,

Gary D. Marshall
Chief Executive Officer

GDM:pp

nebraska farm bureau federation
5225 S. 16th St., P.O. Box 80299, Lincoln, NE 68501 Phone: (402) 421-4400, FAX# (402) 421-4432

March 23, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation I offer this letter of support for the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development in the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Dorr's extensive service within the USDA as Senior Advisor to the Secretary has given him ample opportunity to display his problem solving skills in major issues facing agriculture. He has been involved with minority farmer issues, animal identification, and helping family farms become more efficient and competitive. Mr. Dorr has shown that he is willing to tackle tough issues in rural development which is important to our agriculturally reliant state of Nebraska.

In addition to his administrative successes within the USDA, Mr. Dorr has personal experience with agriculture as he managed a family farm and was involved with farm organizations such as the Iowa Corn Growers. This practical experience gives him the ability to understand the struggles farmers face and also improves communication between agriculture producers and the USDA administration. His past experience with agriculture gives him a perspective that is vitally important for the Under Secretary for Rural Development position.

Under Mr. Dorr's direction, an additional $900 million in funding for guaranteed loans became available, and the USDA Rural Development department sought out more organizations and individuals that might qualify for Rural Development programs. The number of opportunities for rural development projects also increased resulting in the rejuvenation of more rural areas than before.

I encourage the Senate Ag Committee to hold a hearing on his nomination and the whole Senate to approve Mr. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Sincerely,

Keith R Olsen

Keith Olsen
President

cc: Senator Chuck Hagel
Senator Ben Nelson
Senator Tom Harkin

F. Nathan Doughty
Mayor
Charles M. Leusner
Deputy Mayor

Susan L. Delanzo
Committeemember
James Alexis
Clerk/Administrator

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP

"A Safe and Clean Family Community"

March 1, 2005

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senate
825-A Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

The Township Middle has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural New Jersey. We work with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our citizens need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

F. Nathan Doughty

F. Nathan Doughty
Mayor

33 Mechanic Street, Cape May Court House, New Jersey / (609) 465-8732 / Fax: (609) 465-4459
www.middletownship.com

1823 Boone Trail Rd. • Sanford, North Carolina 27330 • 919-776-8840 • Fax: 919-776-9806

March 11, 2005

The Honorable Elizabeth Dole
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3301

Dear Senator:

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Mr. Dorr was gracious enough to come to the grand opening of a new theatre that we built here in Sanford, NC, that could not have been accomplished without his support. We are working approximately 40 people, and it is a real asset to our town. During dinner that night, it was nice to learn of all his accomplishments. He certainly has been an asset to us. I would strongly recommend him, not only for this position, but also for any.

Sincerely,

FRONTIER SPINNING MILLS

George R. Perkins, Jr.
Chairman and CEO

GRPjr:dsh

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North Carolina State University is a land-grant university and a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
North Carolina Agricultural Research Service

NC STATE

Campus Box 7643
Raleigh, NC 27695-7643

919.515.2717
919.515.7745 (fax)
ag_research@ncsu.edu

February 28, 2005

The Honorable Elizabeth Dole
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3307

Dear Senator Dole:

My office is responsible for agricultural research in North Carolina. Our research efforts, in accordance with our land grant mission, serve agriculture and foster rural economic development. In fact, rural economic development depends on our research but also on its implementation. Much of this implementation is linked to leadership in the U S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development sector. I believe Thomas C. Dorr will advance our joint mission and I support his nomination for Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has a strong record in this area and has shown his support and knowledge of programs such as value-added agriculture that we are actively pursuing. His ability to work with us and advance our farmers' competitiveness and foster rural economic development is critical at this time.

This office fully endorses his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Steven Leath
Interim Associate Dean and Director

cc: Senator Chambliss

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Steven Leath
Interim Associate Dean and Director

cc: Senator Chambliss

SAMMY HOWELL, PRESIDENT
715 Statesville Road
Como, NC 27818
Telephone: (252) 398-3361

OTIS TAYLOR, VICE-PRESIDENT
214 Rollingwood Road
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
Telephone: (252) 519-2178

DAN WARD, SECRETARY
P.O. Box 863
Clarkton, NC 28433
Telephone: (910) 647-0363

DONNIE WHITE, TREASURER
2464 Spring Green Road
Williamston, NC 27892
Telephone: (252) 798-2091

North Carolina Peanut Growers Association, Inc.

ROBERT R. SUTTER
Chief Executive Officer

P. O. BOX 8
NASHVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
27856-0008

Telephone
(252) 459-6060
(252) 459-5067
FAX
(252) 459-7396
E-MAIL
sutter@aboutpeanuts.com

April 25, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Committee on Agriculture Chairman
United States Senate
C2 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss;

The peanut farmers of North Carolina and the Southeast are facing uncertain times. Selling peanuts on the free market is proving to be difficult. We are seeing lower contract prices and shifts in production from the traditional peanut producing areas. These counties have relied on peanuts for the past 60 years. The loss of the peanut revenue is going to be devastating to many peanut counties.

The programs administered by USDA Rural Development are going to be the lifeline to many of the economically depressed counties. That is why it is important that we have strong and creative leadership in that agency. For that reason we strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive.

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Sincerely;

Robert R. Sutter
CEO

"For Size, Quality and Flavor too, the NORTH CAROLINA-VIRGINIA TYPE is the PEANUT for you"
Web Site http://www.aboutpeanuts.com

SAMMY HOWELL, PRESIDENT
715 Statesville Road
Conn, NC 27818
Telephone: (252) 338 3361

ELLIS TAYLOR, VICE-PRESIDENT
214 Rolingwood Road
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
Telephone: (252) 519 2178

DAN WARD, SECRETARY
P.O. Box 850
Clarkton, NC 28433
Telephone: (910) 647-0353

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2464 Spring Green Road
Williamston, NC 27892
Telephone: (252) 798-2691

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P. O. BOX 8
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27856-0008

Telephone
(252) 459-5060
(252) 459-5067
FAX
(252) 459-7398
E-MAIL
sutter@aboutpeanuts.com

April 25, 2005

The Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senate
B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burr;

The peanut farmers of North Carolina are facing uncertain times. Selling peanuts on the free market is proving to be difficult. We are seeing lower contract prices and shifts in production from the traditional peanut producing areas. These counties have relied on peanuts for the past 60 years. The loss of the peanut revenue is going to be devastating to many peanut counties.

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Como, NC 27818
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ELLIS TAYLOR, VICE-PRESIDENT
214 Rolingwood Road
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
Telephone: (252) 519-2179

DAN WARD, SECRETARY
P.O. Box 803
Clinton, NC 28433
Telephone: (910) 647-0353

DONNIE WHITE, TREASURER
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Williamston, NC 27892
Telephone: (252) 798-2691

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P. O. BOX 8
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April 25, 2005

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United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3301

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April 25, 2005

The Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

As an organization of family farmers, the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association and its farmer supporters need the United States Senate to confirm Thomas C. Dorr as USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development.

I have known Tom Dorr for nearly ten years through our connections as members of Farm Foundation's Bennett Agricultural Round Table. I know him to be a person of high intellect, high ability and high integrity. Through his "hands-on" experience as a working farmer, Tom Dorr has the background and know-how necessary to advance programs so vital to farm and non-farm rural citizens of our nation. His life's experiences have prepared him with all the vital skills necessary to lead this most important program at USDA.

As a leader of my state's soybean commodity organization I recognize the importance of Tom Dorr's efforts to develop value-added cooperative marketing programs that will help farmers retain more of the profitability of their farming enterprises, and help them survive in the highly competitive world markets that we currently face.

We strongly urge you to use all your influence to see that Thomas C. Dorr is expeditiously confirmed as USDA Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development so he can move the many programs forward that are so vital to all rural citizens.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Wilder

James F. Wilder
Executive Vice President

JFW:lgr

211 Six Forks Road, Suite 102, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609, Phone: 919-839-5700, Fax: 919-839-5775

April 25, 2005

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United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3301

Dear Senator Dole:

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April 25, 2005

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Committee on Agriculture Chairman
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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NORTH CAROLINA
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

TELEPHONE (919) 782-1705 / P. O. BOX 27766 / RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27611

February 18, 2005

The Honorable Elizabeth Dole
United States Senate
120 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3307

Dear Senator Dole:

As you know, we represent farmers and their rural communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that these communities have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. **We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.**

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development.**

We strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Wooten
President

LBW:msp

cc: The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
The Honorable Mike Johanns

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FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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cc: The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
The Honorable Mike Johanns

NATIONAL SPINNING CO., INC.
P.O. Box 191 – 1481 W. 2nd Street
Washington, NC 27889
Tel: (252) 975-7218 FAX: (252) 975-7688

James W. Chesnutt – President/CEO

World Class Employee Owned Company

02-05

February 14, 2005

The Honorable Elizabeth Dole
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3301

Dear Senator Dole:

I am involved with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. I strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

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James W. Chesnutt
President/C.E.O.

pc: Mike Johanns
The Honorable Saxby Chambliss

bc: John Cooper

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03-05

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The Honorable Saxby Chambliss

bc: John Cooper

COTTON GROWERS COOPERATIVE
101 SIGMA DRIVE
GARNER, NORTH CAROLINA 27529

TEL: 919.773.2120, 800.662.7082
FAX: 919.773.4495
www.carolinascotton.com

February 9, 2005

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555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3301

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Sincerely,

J. Michael Quinn,
President

cc: The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Committee on Agriculture Chairman
Mr. Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture

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President

cc: The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Committee on Agriculture Chairman
Mr. Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture

RAY L. WULF, President
TERRY DETRICK, Vice President
ROYCE MEEK, Secretary

March 10, 2005

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
United States Senate
453 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

President Bush has recently re-submitted the name of Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

While Mr. Dorr served as a Special Assistant to former Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, he visited our state office here in Oklahoma City. During that meeting we had a very fruitful discussion relative to rural development and creation of ethanol and oilseed opportunities within the state. He shared several rural development experiences within his own home state and demonstrated his expertise relative to those projects. Based on our dialogue and his list of accomplishments while he was serving as a nominee previously, we can see the value in having Mr. Dorr's expertise and experiences put to work on behalf of rural America.

We trust that you will equally find such favor with Tom Dorr when he is considered for confirmation by the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

Ray L. Wulf
President & CEO

Cc: The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Mike Johanns, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

6200 Northwest Second - Oklahoma City, OK 73127 - (405) 603-1102
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24000, Oklahoma City, OK 73124
www.okfarmersunion.com

RAY L. WULF, President
TERRY DETRICK, Vice President
ROYCE MEEK, Secretary

March 10, 2005

The Honorable Tom Coburn
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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www.okfarmersunion.com

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

Center for Outreach Programs

March 9, 2005

The Honorable Tom Coburn
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

Langston University has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural Oklahoma. We work with farmers and small communities everyday and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

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Sincerely,

Sherman L. Lewis
Associate Administrator
Extension/Outreach

- Langston University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer -

P.O. Box 1258
Langston, Oklahoma 73050

Phone: (405) 466-9896
Fax: (405) 466-9937

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

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United States Senate
453 Russell Office Building
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Dear Senator Inhofe:

Langston University has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural Oklahoma. We work with farmers and small communities everyday and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farms and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision in USDA Rural Development. We need Tom Dorr's leadership in USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we **strongly urge** you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Ernest L. Holloway
President

UNITED FARMERS USA
p.o. Box 1675, Sumter, S.C. 29151
803-905-4667

The Honorable, Saxby Chambliss, Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510-6000

Dear Chairman Chambliss:

I am writing this letter to encourage you to quickly confirm Tom Dorr as the USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Over the last few years, in my capacity as President of United Farmers, I have had the opportunity to work with several of the President's most senior appointees at the Department of Agriculture, as we have tried to move beyond the hostile environment that followed the *Pigford* case. During this time I can honestly say that my experiences with Mr. Dorr have been uniformly positive.

Not only has Mr. Dorr met with me in his office in Washington, DC, but he has traveled down to my home state of South Carolina to meet with farmers and rural community leaders to try and find creative ways for us to work together.

When I first met Mr. Dorr, he gave me his card and said that his door is always open. Please feel free to call any time. Often comments like this are empty promises. However, Mr. Dorr's promise has turned out to be a genuine commitment. I have found that every time I have contacted Mr. Dorr I have received a prompt and thoughtful response.

I can honestly say that I believe that he sincerely cares about the farmers who we represent. His passion for the small farmer and his dedication to helping rural communities is clear to anyone who has really worked with him.

I am please that the President re-nominated him to serve as the USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development and hope that the Senate can put the record straight by promptly providing the advice and consent necessary for him to assume this important position for the next 4 years.

If you have any questions or if I can provide you with any further background on my experiences with Mr. Dorr, please feel free to contact me at

Sincerely,

Hezekiah Gibson
President, United Farmers, USA

Cc: President George W. Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20500
Secretary Mike Johanns, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250

SOUTH DAKOTA FARM BUREAU

2225 DAKOTA AVENUE SOUTH
P.O. BOX 1426
HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA 57350
PHONE (605) 352-6731

March 17, 2005

U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Washington D.C.

Dear Senator Chambliss,

I am writing as President of the South Dakota Farm Bureau to support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development. South Dakota Farm Bureau is a general farm organization representing over 10,000 farm, ranch and rural families in South Dakota.

Mr. Dorr has demonstrated his desire and the skills necessary to lead USDA's rural development efforts. Mr. Dorr's advocacy for value added agriculture has assisted family farmers who are seeking opportunities to be competitive in the marketplace.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide these programs the leadership necessary to be successful. S.D. farmers and ranchers will benefit from Mr. Dorr's confirmation. We strongly urge you to vote for the confirmation of Mr. Dorr.

Sincerely,

Scott VanderWal
President
South Dakota Farm Bureau

SDSA

South Dakota Soybean Association

3801 S. Western Ave. #105 • Sioux Falls, SD 57105 • (605) 330-0278

VIA FACSIMILE

April 13, 2015

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

The South Dakota Soybean Association (SDSA) is a grassroots farmer led organization which develops and implements the policies of our members for their benefit and profitability as well as for the entire industry. SDSA strongly supports Thomas Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

It is imperative that we have strong and innovative leaders like Mr. Dorr at the Department of Agriculture to serve its mission while meeting the needs of rural America. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value-added and sustainable agriculture, which has benefited family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive.

SDSA encourages your support for Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary for Rural Development. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronald J Gordes

Ron Gordes
President

Cc: Sen. Saxby Chambliss
Sen. Tim Johnson
Sen. John Thune

PRINTED WITH SOY INK

SOUTH DAKOTA WHEAT INC.
Member National Association of Wheat Growers, Inc.
P.O. Box 667
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-4418

March 22, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

The South Dakota Wheat Commission and South Dakota Wheat, Inc. strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Our organizations have long realized that rural development and creation of new value-added projects are critical components of the success of in improving economic opportunities in South Dakota. We work with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited family farms and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. He has directed the Department to be proactive and creative reaching out to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. South Dakota wheat farmers need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate.**

We respectfully request and <u>strongly urge</u> you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Carl Schwab, President
South Dakota Wheat, Inc.

Gregg Krebsbach, Chairman
South Dakota Wheat Commission

March 23, 2005

Senator Saxby Chambliss
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Chambliss,

On behalf of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, I am writing in support of Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

The SDCGA is directly involved with farmers and rural communities on a daily basis so we understand their needs and challenges. It's because of our knowledge of this sector that we recommend Mr. Dorr for his strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area.

An advocate for rural America, Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the experience and skills necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. He has led the advancement of value added and sustainable agriculture during his time with the USDA, which has allowed family farmers the opportunity to remain competitive. He has cut through red tape to get needed help to rural communities, uncovered and delivered funding for several programs such as the new Broadband program, and tackled tough issues to bring assistance and accountability for minorities through outreach programs.

Mr. Dorr's track record for rural America is impeccable and he should be rewarded for his dedication to advancing the quality of life of those who live in rural communities. As we face a tight budget and the development of a new farm bill, our members need Mr. Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. The South Dakota Corn Growers Association gives its highest recommendation to Tom Dorr and strongly urges you to vote for Mr. Dorr's confirmation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Gillen

David Gillen
President
South Dakota Corn Growers Association

April 12, 2005

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate SR-383
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

The South Dakota Pork Producers Council has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural South Dakota. We work with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

Brad Greenway

Brad Greenway
President, South Dakota Pork Producers Council

TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
P. O. BOX 313 • COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE 38402-0313 • (931) 388-7872 • FAX (931) 388-5818

March 28, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
U.S. Senate
416 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, I wish to endorse the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr for Secretary of Rural Development for the Department of Agriculture. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in he Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. We urge an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Flavius A. Barker,
President

Farm Bureau in Tennessee...Where Membership Means Value

TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
P. O. BOX 313 • COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE 38402-0313 • (931) 388-7872 • FAX (931) 388-5818

March 28, 2005

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senate
302 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, I wish to endorse the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr for Secretary of Rural Development for the Department of Agriculture. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in he Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

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Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. We urge an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Flavius A. Barker,
President

TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
P. O. BOX 313 • COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE 38402-0313 • (931) 388-7872 • FAX (931) 388-5818

March 28, 2005

The Honorable Bill Frist
U.S. Senate
416 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Frist:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, I wish to endorse the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr for Secretary of Rural Development for the Department of Agriculture. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in he Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

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Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. We urge an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Flavius A. Barker,
President

Farm Bureau in Tennessee...Where Membership Means Value

TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
P. O. BOX 313 • COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE 38402-0313 • (931) 388-7872 • FAX (931) 388-5818

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U.S. Senate
731 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Sincerely,

Flavius A. Barker,
President

Farm Bureau in Tennessee...Where Membership Means Value

Dan Wheeler
3316 Stillcorn Ridge Road
Columbia, TN 38401

March 29, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
U.S. Senate
416 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss,

I write to encourage you to support the nomination of Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

I have known Mr. Dorr for some 12 years and have personal knowledge of his strong commitment to rural America and the future development of our rural economies. He has proven to be an effective leader and advocate for the USDA Rural Development Agency and its programs. He has been especially effective as a leading advocate for the support of value added and sustainable agriculture development that has benefited small family farmers and offers them more opportunity to remain competitive.

By virtue of my involvement as Director of the University of Tennessee Extension's Center for Profitable Agriculture (an agricultural innovation center focusing on value-added entrepreneurship) I have a special interest in, and appreciation for, Mr. Dorr's leadership and support in this critical area.

Sincerely,

Dan Wheeler

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3316 Stillcorn Ridge Road
Columbia, TN 38401

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731 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Sincerely,

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3316 Stillcorn Ridge Road
Columbia, TN 38401

March 29, 2005

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416 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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By virtue of my involvement as Director of the University of Tennessee Extension's Center for Profitable Agriculture (an agricultural innovation center focusing on value-added entrepreneurship) I have a special interest in, and appreciation for, Mr. Dorr's leadership and support in this critical area.

Sincerely,

Dan Wheeler

Crooked Brooks Farm, LLC

2603 U.S. Route 2
Cabot VT 05647

U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss
416 Russello Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
April 12, 2005

Dear Senator Chambliss,

I work (and have worked) with farmers and small communities every day in Vermont, and I understand their needs and challenges. In order to improve the economic opportunities for them in our state, it is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. I strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value-added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In Vermont, we have benefited greatly from programs through Rural Development that have helped our farmers diversify into agritourism. In my own community of Cabot, we have been able to build a water treatment plant, contributing greatly to the spurt of new homes in the village.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. Rural American – and rural Vermont – needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate, and I strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Jackie Folsom

Jackie Folsom, Partner
Crooked Brooks Farm, LLC
Cabot VT

WISCONSIN REALTORS® ASSOCIATION
4801 Forest Run Road, Suite 201
Madison, WI 53704-7337
608-241-2047 ☎ 800-279-1972
Fax: 608-241-2901
E-mail: wra@wra.org
Web site: http://www.wra.org

Kitty Jedwabny, CRB, CRS, Chairman
E-mail: kjedwabny@coldwellhomes.com

William Malkasian, CAE, President
E-mail: wem@wra.org

April 13, 2005

The Honorable Herb Kohl
United States Senator
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

On behalf of the 17,500 members of the Wisconsin REALTORS Association (WRA), I believe we have a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural Wisconsin. REALTORS work with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. The WRA strongly supports Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

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Sincerely,

William Malkasian, CAE
President

REALTOR® is a registered mark which identifies a professional in real estate who subscribes to a strict Code of Ethics as a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

WISCONSIN REALTORS® ASSOCIATION
4801 Forest Run Road, Suite 201
Madison, WI 53704-7337
608-241-2047 ☎ 800-279-1972
Fax: 608-241-2901
E-mail: wra@wra.org
Web site: http://www.wra.org

Kitty Jedwabny, CRB, CRS, Chairman
E-mail: kjedwabny@coldwellbanker.com

William Malkasian, CAE, President
E-mail: wcm@wra.org

April 13, 2005

The Honorable Russell Feingold
United States Senator
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feingold:

On behalf of the 17,500 members of the Wisconsin REALTORS Association (WRA), I believe we have a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in rural Wisconsin. REALTORS work with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. The WRA strongly supports Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

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The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our 17,500 members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

William Malkasian, CAE
President

REALTOR® is a registered mark which identifies a professional in real estate who subscribes to a strict Code of Ethics as a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Frassetto

From: "Wisconsin Corn Program" <wicorn@idcnet.com>
To: "Frassetto" <frdowns@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2005 7:39 AM
Subject: Re: Request for support of Undersecretary for Rural Development

I have sent messages to our Senators on Tom Dorrs' behalf.

Bob Oleson

----- Original Message -----
From: Frassetto
To: WICorn@idcnet.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2005 8:49 PM
Subject: Request for support of Undersecretary for Rural Development

Dear Bob,

I am writing you to seek your organization's support of President Bush's nominee for Undersecretary of Rural Development, Tom Dorr.

As you may know, Mr. Dorr had served in this capacity for a period of time over the last two - three years but was never confirmed by the Senate. Since he has now been renominated, we're hoping your organization will offer support as subcommittee hearings are scheduled in the very near future.

If your organization is interested in assisting in this effort, I would ask that you forward a letter to both of WI's senators and to the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Ag committee (messrs. Chambliss and Harkin). For your reference, I've attached a sample letter of support as well as information on Mr. Dorr.

If you decide to lend your support please email or fax (since time is of the essence) a letter supporting nominee Dorr to the following: kohl_senate@kohl.senate.gov, (there is an underscore between kohl and senate that you may not see), chambliss.senate.gov, harkin.senate.gov (Both Chambliss and Harkin's information are websites that provide an email link). As for Senator Feingold, I do not have his email nor fax readily available.

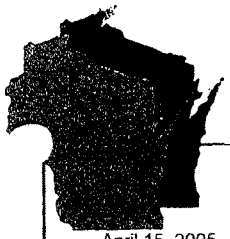
Additionally, if I could be cc'd on the letter it will help me track the process.

Bill, thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Finally, I really want to meet up with you soon but my schedule is solid until mid May. Perhaps we can hook up then.

Best wishes,

Frank Frassetto



IMPACT SEVEN, INC.

A WISCONSIN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

147 Lake Almena Dr.• Almena, WI 54805• 715-357-3334• FAX 715-357-6233• e-mail: impact@impactseven.org

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

April 15, 2005

Senator Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Thomas C. Dorr

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Impact Seven, Inc. has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities for the rural residents of Wisconsin. We work with small, rural communities and target the very low and low income residents of Wisconsin. So that we can continue to serve these communities and residents, it is imperative that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

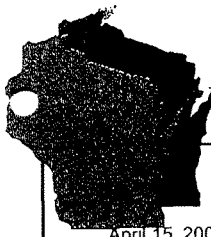
The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. We need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

William Bay

William Bay, President

Recipient of Wisconsin's First New Markets Tax Credits



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April 15, 2005

Senator Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Thomas C. Dorr

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April 15, 2005

Senator Herb Kohl
United States Senate
330 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Thomas C. Dorr

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Impact Seven, Inc. has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities for the rural residents of Wisconsin. We work with small, rural communities and target the very low and low income residents of Wisconsin. So that we can continue to serve these communities and residents, it is imperative that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. We need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

William Bay

William Bay, President

Recipient of Wisconsin's First New Markets Tax Credits

IMPACT SEVEN, INC.

A WISCONSIN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

147 Lake Almena Dr • Almena, WI 54805• 715-357-3334• FAX 715-357-6233• e-mail: impact@impactseven.org

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

April 15, 2005

Senator Russ Feingold
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Thomas C. Dorr

Dear Senator Feingold:

Impact Seven, Inc. has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities for the rural residents of Wisconsin. We work with small, rural communities and target the very low and low income residents of Wisconsin. So that we can continue to serve these communities and residents, it is imperative that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. We need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

William Bay

William Bay, President

Recipient of Wisconsin's First New Markets Tax Credits

November 3, 2003

Dear Senator:

The below signed organizations urge you to vote in support of the confirmation of Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary of Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture. The position of Under Secretary of Rural Development is critical in a number of ways to the success of rural America and agriculture communities.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Nutrition recognizes the importance of this position and favorably reported (14-7) Mr. Dorr's nomination in bipartisan fashion on June 18, 2003.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will allow these vital programs the greatest possibility of success. Mr. Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate, we urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Meat Institute
American Soybean Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Turkey Federation
United Egg Association
United Egg Producers
United Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Association
USA Rice Federation

2002 North Carolina Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
Monday, December 9, 2002

Remarks of Former U.S. Congresswoman Eva Clayton

<Applause following her formal remarks>

Clayton: Can I say a word about Dorr before I --?

Moderator: Sure, you certainly can.

Clayton: He's going to let me come back. I wanted to –I'm not introducing, ah, Mr. Dorr because, ah, he will be appropriately introduced. So, if I have to slip out—if he goes over 15 minutes I'm going to slip out, I can tell you.

But, um…I've come to know him and, um, as we began our our relationship we did not see eye-to-eye. But I want to tell you that he is a man of great depth and great understanding and is someone who indeed who is willing to be patient with me, bring me along and come and I also have been patient with him. So, I think we have developed a unique relationship and I just want to commend him to you, as he will be properly introduced. And if I have to slip out it is in no ways, ah, um, disrespectful to him. It's just that I have to catch, ah, a 10:55 plane back to Washington. So I want to thank you for coming to my state and thank you for the leadership that you have bro—providing rural America. Thank you very much.

<Applause>

USDA STATEMENT

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1300 • Voice: (202) 720-4623 • Email: oc.news@usda.gov • Web: http://www.usda.gov

Release No. 0387.03

by
Secretary Ann M. Veneman
on Thomas C. Dorr
November 18, 2003

"Today, the political process got in the way of progress for rural America. In spite of personal commitments I had from Senators to support Tom Dorr, the partisanship of the Senate superceded the best interests of rural America.

"During his tenure at USDA, Tom has made a tremendous impact in the area of Rural Development including expediting programs and implementing management efficiencies. His work won universal support from those internally and externally. It is unfortunate that residents of rural America will not benefit from the integrity, fairness and the ingenuity of Tom's leadership, which helped to strengthen rural development programs. We are extremely proud of him.

"I sincerely thank the Senators from both sides of the aisle who supported Tom and who worked so hard on his behalf."

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUN 27 2002

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of June 6, 2002, regarding the nomination of Tom Dorr as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. The letter expresses the Committee on Agriculture's interest in having the Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) conduct a year-end review of the Harold and Melvin Dorr Trusts for each of the years 1988 through 1993. The letter also asks whether the Melvin Dorr Trust and the Harold Dorr Trust have repaid the funds required by the year end reviews for 1994 and 1995.

I asked FSA to conduct the requested review and a copy of the June 25, 2002, report is enclosed. The report also provides the information that you have requested regarding the status of the refund payments. I note that the last sentence of the first full paragraph on the second page of the report contains a typographical error regarding the dates of the requested farm records. While the sentence reads "from the years 1998 through 1993," it should read "from the years 1988 through 1993."

I hope and trust that this information will enable you and the Committee to finally move forward on Mr. Dorr's nomination, as promised in your June 6 letter.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Veneman
Secretary

Enclosure

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USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Farm Service Agency

Iowa State FSA Office
10800 Buena Vista Court
Des Moines, IA 50322-3732

(515) 254-1540

FAX:
(515) 254-1573

June 25, 2002
Reply to: Production Adjustment

TO: James Little, Administrator FSA

FROM: Steve Phillips, Iowa State FSA Office Steve Phillips

SUBJECT: Review of Dorr Trusts Records

This memorandum is to summarize recent reviews of the payment eligibility for 2 Dorr trusts for the years 1988 through 1993.

I had the Cherokee County CED, Michael Houston, review and copy available records for the Melvin G Dorr Family Irrevocable Trust (MG Dorr Trust) and the Harold E Dorr Family Irrevocable Trust (HE Dorr Trust) for the years 1988 through 1993. I reviewed those records with the following conclusions:

- In each of those years, each trust had one farm that was participating in the Price Support / Production Adjustment Program. The records available generally include the CCC-477 Contract, The ASCS-578 Report of Acreage, The ASCS-156 Farm Record, The ASCS-476 Notice of Bases and Yields, and some record of payments made, in most cases a copy of the actual payment statement. The notable exception is the 1988 and 1989 records for the HE Dorr Trust farm. In those 2 years the only available record is the Report of Acreage.
  I have summarized the payments and shares in an attached excel work sheet.

- The FSA records for those years show the Trusts were conducting the respective farming operations as owner operator with the Trusts having 100% interest in the crops and farm payments, the same as they were reported to FSA in 1994 and 1995. The end-of-year reviews for 1994 and 1995 revealed that the income and expenses from the Trusts farms were actually shared 50/50 with Dorrs Pine Grove Farms, Inc. FSA determined that the trusts had violated the shares provisions or the CCC-477 Contracts for those years. The Melvin Dorr Trust refunded that money after a review in 1997.

  1994 and 1995 end-of-year reviews were conducted on the Harold Dorr Trust in late 2001 at the direction of your Office. This trust was also determined to have violated the shares provision of the CCC-477 for those years. The Harold Dorr Trust has stated in a letter, dated June 25, 2002, it's intent is to refund those payments by July 5, 2002.

- FSA files contain no actual records from the Dorr farming operations for us to determine how these operations were actually conducted in 1988 through 1993. It is unlikely that many of the actual farm records are still available, as this 9 to 14 years in the past. FSA has no requirement that farmers retain these records for this length of time.

- The H. E. Dorr Trust also received a share of Payments in 1990 through 1993 on a larger farm

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on which Dorrs Pine Grove Farm was the operator. The farm number changed from year to year due to farm reconstitutions, but generally it contained 1300 to 1400 acres of cropland owned by various Dorr family members and entities. Although we have reports of acreage and CCC-477 Contracts for those farms, I am unable to determine if there is a potential problem with the payments on that larger farm. The Report of Acreage shows, that all crops on all acres, regardless of who owned the land, were shared in the same manner as program payments were shared on the farm. I believe the County office took a short cut in recording all shares this way, rather than requiring the operator to specify how crops in each field were shared. Since the report of acreage did not show how producers on individual tracts of land shared in the crops, I am unable to determine if there is a potential problem with the payments on this land.

You informed this Office that Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee, requested FSA conduct payment limitation/eligibility End-of Year reviews for the years 1988 through 1993. The Cherokee County Office initiated those reviews with letters to Thomas Dorr, representative of the Melvin Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust, and Donald Dorr, representative for the Harold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust. Those letters were sent by regular mail and via FAX on June 24, 2002. The letters requested that the Trusts provide actual farm records from the years 1998 through 1993 including, but not limited to, records of crop and machinery expenses, farm leases, crop income, crop insurance records, etc..

Both Thomas Dorr and Donald Dorr responded via FAX to the Cherokee County FSA Office on June 25, 2002 stating that farm records for those years are no longer available. Donald Dorr stated that in 1999 all records for the Harold Dorr Trust, over 5 years old, were destroyed. Thomas Dorr stated he is unable to comply with this request. He states "We would comply, if sufficient information were available to fairly and accurately show how our operations were conducted, but we are unable to do so."

In the absence of actual farm records from the Trusts, this Office believes it is not possible for FSA to come to any valid conclusion regarding the eligibility of the Trusts for deficiency payments that were paid in the years 1998 through 1993. Producers are not required to maintain records for this length of time and we suggest that this review be concluded. Please advise this Office how to proceed.

Harrold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust (H E Dorr Trust)

	farm number	acreage share	CCC-477 share	payments	comments
1988	2317	100%	n/a	n/a	Dorrs PinGrove Farms, Inc. listed as operator, Contract and payment documents no longer available, but all crop to trust
1989	2317	100%	n/a	n/a	Dorrs PinGrove Farms, Inc. listed as operator, Contract and payment documents no longer available, but all crop to trust
1990	2317	100%	100%	$9,700.27	Dorrs PinGrove Farms, Inc. listed as operator, but all crops and payments to trust
1991	2317	100%	100%	$6,850	Dorr H E Irrv Trust is owner/operator, all crops and payments to trust
1992	2317	100%	100%	$12,599	Dorr H E Irrv Trust is owner/operator, all crops and payments to trust
1993	2317	100%	100%	$5,676	Dorr H E Irrv Trust is owner/operator, all crops and payments to trust

Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust (M G Dorr Trust)

1988	2042	100%	100%	$4,790	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments
1989	2042	100%	100%	$6,992	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments
1990	2042	100%	100%	$6,122.08	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments
1991	2823	100%	100%	$8,119	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments
1992	2823	100%	100%	$11,354	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments
1993	2823	100%	100%	$4,623	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments

USDA

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Services

Farm Service
Agency

Cherokee County
FSA Office
Box 455
Cherokee, IA 51012-
0455

Phone:
(712) 225-5717
FAX:
(712) 225-6090

June 5, 2002

Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust
% Donald J. Dorr
1109 Candlewood Drive
League City, TX 77573-3194

Dear Mr. Dorr:

This responds to your letter of April 19, 2002. Farm Service Agency's authority to compromise debt is based on Regulations at 7-CFR, Part 1403.15 and Farm Service Agency procedure in Handbook 58-FL. Those regulations give Farm Service Agency authority to compromise debt either because a debtor is financially unable to pay the debt or Farm Service Agency has no reasonable prospect to enforce collection of the debt.

If you believe that the Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust qualifies for debt compromise under these regulations, you must provide 2 years of financial records and tax returns per for consideration by Farm Service Agency. We have enclosed Farm Service Agency Handbook procedure, which contains information on required records, and guidelines Farm Service Agency will use to consider any compromises offer.

By letter dated 01-31-2002, we notified you that the County Committee had determined that you owe $17,151.87 plus interest as applicable. See attached Statement of Outstanding Debt. The debt is past due. Late payment interest will accrue on your debt at the rate of 5.500% per annum from the date of this letter until the debt is paid or otherwise resolved. FSA will waive late payment interest on your debt (or any part of your debt) that is paid in the next 30 days.

Please pay your debt now. Make your check payable to "Commodity Credit Corporation" and send it to this office at the above address. If you are unable to pay the debt in full now, you may arrange to establish a mutually acceptable repayment agreement and pay in installments. If payment in full or arrangements to pay the debt in full are not made within 60 days from the date of this letter, the debt will be sent to the Kansas City Management Office for referral to the Department of Treasury. The Department of Treasury will collect the debt by offset of qualified disbursements and refunds, including any federal income tax refund to which you may be entitled.

Because this debt may be collected by offset of your federal income tax refunds, you may present, within 60 days from the date of this letter, evidence that all or part of the debt is not past due or legally enforceable. To do so, submit to this office a written explanation of your position that the debt or part of the debt is not past due or legally enforceable, and include documentation to support your position.

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Under Federal law and regulations, the following additional actions may be taken by USDA and the Department of Treasury to collect delinquent debts:

- Assessment of interest, administrative costs, and penalties
- Administrative garnishment of wages
- Offset of CCC and FSA payments
- Reporting the debt to consumer and commercial credit bureaus
- Referral of the debt to private collection agencies and Treasury-designated collection centers
- Referral of the debt to agency counsel or the Department of Justice for litigation
- Reporting the debt to the Internal Revenue Service if the debt, or any portion of the debt, is discharged

Our records do not indicate that you have filed for bankruptcy protection under Title 11 of the United States Code. If you have filed for bankruptcy, please notify your local USDA Service Center as soon as possible so that we may update our records to reflect the bankruptcy, and proceed to resolve this debt in accordance with bankruptcy procedures.

Please contact this office at #712-225-5717 if you have any questions. We want to work with you to resolve this debt and to discuss repayments options, if necessary. If this debt is not resolved within 60 days from the date of this letter, the Kansas City Management Office will take additional collection action.

Please disregard this letter if you have already paid this debt.

Sincerely

Michael W. Houston
County Executive Director

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Date 6/25/02

Number of pages including cover sheet 2

TO:	Cherokee County FSA Office Attn: Michael W. Houston PO Box 455 Cherokee, LA 51012	**FROM:**	Don Dorr 1109 Candlewood Drive League City, TX 77573
Phone	(712) 225-5717	**Phone**	(281) 554-8399
Fax Phone	(712) 225-6090	**Fax Phone**	(413) 832-8522

CC:

REMARKS: ☐ Urgent ☒ For your review ☐ Reply ASAP ☐ Please Comment

Dear Michael:

The following letter is our response to your request for documents and information to perform payment limitation and payment eligibility end-of-year reviews for the years 1988 through 1993 for The Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust's farming operations. As it indicates, the documents you requested no longer exist, having been destroyed when we cleaned out Belva Dorr's house in 1999.

Also, concerning your request for payments as a result of the 1994 end-of-year review, it is our present intent to submit those payments by the July 5, 2002 due date along with a cover letter disclaiming any wrongdoing or misrepresentation to the FSA. (The Trust just can't afford to litigate against a government with an unlimited checkbook and we need to put this matter to rest.)

Sincerely yours,

Donald J. Dorr, Trustee
The Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust

June 25, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE AND REGULAR MAIL
712-225-6090

Mr. Houston and Members of the Committee,
Cherokee County FSA Office
Attn: Michael W. Houston, CED
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, IA 51012

Dear Mr. Houston and Members of the Committee,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 24, 2002, advising us that Senator Tom Harkin has requested that you perform end-of-year reviews of our operations for the years 1988 through 1993. While we have no fixed time period beyond five years that we maintain records of our annual operations, it is our practice to discard such information that will not be required for IRS or normal FSA reviews after seven or eight years.

This letter from your office requests materials going back from ten to fifteen years. We are unable to comply with your request. We would comply, if sufficient information were available to us to fairly and accurately show how our operations were conducted, but we are unable to do so.

Knowing that your office is only required to keep records for no more than five years, we hope you understand our practices in this regard.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Dorr
Trustee
M.G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Farm Service Agency

1400 Independence Ave, SW
Stop 0501
Washington, DC 20250-0501

Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

On April 27, 2005, at the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry confirmation hearing for Under Secretary for Rural Development-designee Thomas Dorr, a document entitled "CCC/FSA Farm Program Collection Activity for FY 2001, by Program Group," was presented for the record. A copy of the table is attached to this letter. Specifically, the committee inquired about the amounts presented in the category entitled "Penalty Income 'Tobacco.'" This table was originally provided to the Committee in 2002.

Upon review by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Controller, some inconsistencies in the original report were identified that I would like to review with you. While the numbers themselves were correct from an accounting perspective, they were not well presented to reflect actual collection activity.

In the original table, the group of rows labeled "Penalty Income – Tobacco" was incorrectly labeled. The first row of this group contained 44,735 cancelled payments totaling $240,925,215.25, which were, in fact, accounting adjustments to a variety of programs, not just tobacco. Furthermore, they did not represent actual collections. This entry was made in accordance with CCC accounting policies and procedures, and is supported in CCC's general ledger.

A revised version of this table has been prepared and is attached to this letter. The revised table shows that FSA and CCC actually made only 94,046 collections totaling $70,901,387.89. It should also be noted that there were only 54 "Tobacco/Peanuts Marketing Quota Penalties" (MQP) collections amounting to $31,847.83.

As shown in the revised table, the "Penalty Income – Tobacco" group, shown on the original table, should have been distributed among the following four groups:

- Penalty Income
- Unearned Payments
- Tobacco/Peanuts MQP
- Cancelled Payments (accounting adjustments – not actual collections)

These groups are explained below:

Penalty Income is the income collected from liquidated damages imposed by the Agency for program noncompliance.

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Unearned Payments are sometimes made to producers that subsequently have to be collected, either through a voluntary repayment, through administrative action, or through the Treasury.

Offset Program. If an amount determined to be unearned is not repaid within 30 days, a claim is established, and collection has been completed through an administrative process or through the establishment of a notes receivable entry.

Tobacco/Peanuts (MQP) are income collected from penalties imposed related to the quota systems used to control markets for the tobacco and peanut programs. These penalties are imposed for noncompliance with marketing requirements as required by law.

Cancelled Payments. In reality, these transactions are accounting adjustments, not collections from the public. They are part of a data handling process used by CCC to correct information initially entered into payment records. This process is only used when the payment amount is correct, but some other key program information about the original payment needs to be changed. This is a clearing account set up in accordance with CCC accounting practices to facilitate processing of these entries in FSA county offices.

The information on cancelled payments has been moved to the bottom of the new table under the summary line titled "Total Collections" so that the differences between the original and new tables would be clear and no money would be missing. Attached, please find the corrected version of this table.

If you or your staff would like to discuss this table, please do not hesitate to contact me. An identical copy of this letter is being sent to your colleague, Senator Tom Harkin.

Sincerely,

James R. Little

James R. Little
Administrator

Attachments

cc: Honorable Tom Harkin
United State Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

FSA and CCC Farm Program Collection Activity for FY 2001, by Program Group

		Total Collections		Receivables		Claims		Notes	
		Count	Amount	Count	Amount	Count	Amount	Count	Amount
Commodity Loan Activity	Voluntary Collection	1,270	$1,480,611.75	0	$0.00	947	$1,295,876.52	323	$184,735.23
	Administravtive Offset	1,017	$1,304,843.09	0	$0.00	893	$1,173,509.46	124	$131,333.63
	DOJ Collection	82	$234,717.71	0	$0.00	38	$221,051.89	44	$13,665.82
	TOP Collection	152	$87,284.44	0	$0.00	152	$87,284.44	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	34	$20,030.17	0	$0.00	34	$20,030.17	0	$0.00
	Total	2,555	$3,107,487.16	0	$0.00	2,064	$2,777,752.48	491	$329,734.68
Loan Deficiency Payments	Voluntary Collection	546	$211,901.35	33	$27,611.35	481	$174,330.07	32	$9,959.93
	Administravtive Offset	354	$280,384.24	0	$0.00	354	$280,384.24	0	$0.00
	DOJ Collection	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	42	$17,838.64	0	$0.00	42	$17,838.64	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	4	$447.95	0	$0.00	4	$447.95	0	$0.00
	Total	946	$490,572.18	33	$27,611.35	881	$453,000.90	32	$9,959.93
Market Loss Assistance	Voluntary Collection	2,968	$1,743,186.56	2,875	$1,633,715.61	93	$109,470.95	0	$0.00
	Administravtive Offset	143	$157,292.18	0	$0.00	143	$157,292.18	0	$0.00
	DOJ Collection	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	14	$2,796.39	0	$0.00	14	$2,796.39	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Total	3,125	$1,903,275.13	2,875	$1,633,715.61	250	$269,559.52	0	$0.00
Deficiency and Diversion	Voluntary Collection	1,423	$959,728.15	563	$733,009.21	100	$59,154.47	760	$167,564.47
	Administravtive Offset	140	$103,710.33	0	$0.00	130	$89,002.03	10	$14,708.30
	DOJ Collection	32	$503,784.02	0	$0.00	32	$503,784.02	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	318	$102,178.98	0	$0.00	318	$102,178.98	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	174	$75,293.60	0	$0.00	174	$75,293.60	0	$0.00
	Total	2,087	$1,744,695.08	563	$733,009.21	754	$829,413.08	770	$182,272.77
PFC Payments	Voluntary Collection	53,459	$44,440,310.91	53,215	$44,257,149.60	180	$150,867.03	64	$32,294.28
	Administravtive Offset	323	$293,610.96	0	$0.00	314	$285,626.97	9	$7,983.99
	DOJ Collection	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	61	$14,545.52	0	$0.00	61	$14,545.52	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	16	$15,631.34	0		16	$15,631.34	0	$0.00
	Total	53,859	$44,764,098.73	53,215	$44,257,149.60	571	$466,670.86	73	$40,278.27
Diaster Programs	Voluntary Collection	8,799	$10,187,514.94	8,493	$9,572,223.13	87	$417,449.98	219	$197,841.83
	Administravtive Offset	191	$331,060.57	0	$0.00	172	$290,615.60	19	$40,444.97
	DOJ Collection	18	$50,024.80	0	$0.00	18	$50,024.80	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	83	$61,370.10	0	$0.00	83	$61,370.10	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	23	$20,115.26	0	$0.00	23	$20,115.26	0	$0.00
	Total	9,112	$10,650,085.47	8,493	$9,572,223.13	381	$839,575.54	238	$238,286.80
Conservation Programs	Voluntary Collection	2,403	$1,294,441.30	2,230	$1,110,863.34	90	$184,141.74	83	$19,436.22
	Administravtive Offset	113	$127,163.80	0	$0.00	102	$103,778.14	11	$23,385.46
	DOJ Collection	6	$750,748.46	0	$0.00	6	$750,748.46	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	64	$38,585.62	0	$0.00	64	$38,585.62	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	18	$12,455.28	0	$0.00	18	$12,455.28	0	$0.00
	Total	2,604	$2,223,394.26	2,230	$1,110,863.34	280	$1,089,709.24	94	$42,821.68
Conservation Reserve Program	Voluntary Collection	268	$130,427.88	234	$120,329.45	34	$10,098.43	0	$0.00
	Administravtive Offset	31	$9,759.85	0	$0.00	30	$7,959.85	1	$1,800.00
	DOJ Collection	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	16	$3,317.63	0	$0.00	16	$3,317.63	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	2	$501.03	0	$0.00	2	$501.03	0	$0.00
	Total	317	$144,006.39	234	$120,329.45	82	$21,876.94	1	$1,800.00
Farm Storage Facility Loans	Voluntary Collection	18	$15,107.74	18	$15,107.74	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Administravtive Offset	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	DOJ Collection	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	1	$865.01	0	$0.00	1	$865.01	0	$0.00
	Total	19	$15,972.75	18	$15,107.74	1	$865.01	0	$0.00
Penalty Income	Voluntary Collection	13,555	$3,033,936.95	11,580	$2,714,811.91	1,974	$317,161.48	1	$1,963.56
	Administravtive Offset	2,182	$337,585.58	0	$0.00	2,182	$337,585.58	0	$0.00
	DOJ Collection	52	$155,229.67	0	$0.00	52	$155,229.67	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	1,011	$230,268.01	0	$0.00	1,011	$230,268.01	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	331	$141,269.63	0	$0.00	331	$141,269.63	0	$0.00
	Total	17,131	$3,898,289.84	11,580	$2,714,811.91	5,550	$1,181,514.37	1	$1,963.56
Unearned Payments	Voluntary Collection	78	$96,989.34	0	$0.00	71	$92,829.92	7	$4,159.42
	Administravtive Offset	85	$215,224.35	0	$0.00	83	$209,224.35	2	$6,000.00
	DOJ Collection	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	6	$3,056.49	0	$0.00	6	$3,056.49	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Total	169	$315,270.18	0	$0.00	160	$305,110.76	9	$10,159.42
Tobacco/Peanuts MQP	Voluntary Collection	44	$25,809.05	18	$21,923.47	2	$2,626.84	24	$1,258.74
	Administravtive Offset	5	$3,383.11	0	$0.00	4	$2,418.88	1	$964.23
	DOJ Collection	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	TOP Collection	4	$2,654.67	0	$0.00	4	$2,654.67	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	1	$1.00	0	$0.00	1	$1.00	0	$0.00
	Total	54	$31,847.83	18	$21,923.47	11	$7,701.39	25	$2,222.97
Other Programs	Voluntary Collection	1,897	$1,055,906.79	1,744	$808,751.38	40	$188,720.00	113	$58,435.43
	Administravtive Offset	80	$318,167.54	0	$0.00	72	$241,053.50	8	$77,114.04
	DOJ Collection	30	$191,068.10	0	$0.00	7	$180,832.21	23	$10,235.89
	TOP Collection	35	$20,152.46	0	$0.00	35	$20,152.46	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	26	$27,098.02	0	$0.00	26	$27,098.02	0	$0.00
	Total	2,068	$1,612,392.91	1,744	$808,751.38	180	$657,856.19	144	$145,785.36
Total Collections	All Types	94,046	$70,901,387.89	81,003	$61,015,496.17	11,165	$8,880,608.28	1,878	$1,005,285.44
Cancelled Payments 1/	Accounting Adjustments	44,735	$240,925,215.35	44,657	$240,925,215.35	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
Grand Total	For Accounting Purposes	138,781	$311,826,603.24	125,660	$301,940,711.52	11,165	$8,880,608.28	1,878	$1,005,285.44

1/ This amount represents collections recorded as a result of an issued payment being canceled. As an internal control, whenever an issued payment is canceled, a receivable is established. In many cases, the payment is being canceled to accomplish an accounting change of key data about the payment, excluding the amount. A new replacement payment is created with the correct accounting data and the funds from the new payment is used to satisfy the receivable balance due. This is an accounting data modification, not an actual collection from the public.

CCC/FSA Farm Program Collection Activity for FY2001, by Program Group

		Total Collections		Receivables		Claims		Notes	
		Count	Amount	Count	Amount	Count	Amount	Count	Amount
Commodity Loan Activity	Voluntary Collection	1,270	$1,480,611.75	0	$0.00	947	$1,295,876.52	323	$184,735.23
	Administrative Offset	1,017	$1,304,843.09			893	$1,173,509.46	124	$131,333.63
	Department of Justice Collection	82	$234,717.71			38	$221,051.89	44	$13,665.82
	Treasury Collection	152	$67,284.44			152	$67,284.44	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	34	$20,030.17			34	$20,030.17	0	$0.00
	Total	2,555	$3,107,487.16	0	$0.00	2,064	$2,777,752.48	491	$329,734.68
Loan Deficiency Payments	Voluntary Collection	546	$211,901.35	33	$27,611.35	481	$174,330.07	32	$9,959.93
	Administravtive Offset	354	$260,384.24			354	$260,384.24	0	$0.00
	Department of Justice Collection	0	$0.00			0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Treasury Collection	42	$17,838.64			42	$17,838.64	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	4	$447.95			4	$447.95	0	$0.00
	Total	946	$490,572.18	33	$27,611.35	881	$453,000.90	32	$9,959.93
Market Loss Assistance	Voluntary Collection	2,968	$1,743,186.56	2,875	$1,633,715.61	93	$109,470.95	0	$0.00
	Administravtive Offset	143	$157,292.18			143	$157,292.18	0	$0.00
	Department of Justice Collection	0	$0.00			0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Treasury Collection	14	$2,796.39			14	$2,796.39	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	0	$0.00			0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Total	3,125	$1,903,275.13	2,875	$1,633,715.61	250	$269,559.52	0	$0.00
Deficiency and Diversion	Voluntary Collection	1,423	$959,728.15	563	$733,009.21	100	$59,154.47	760	$167,564.47
	Administravtive Offset	140	$103,710.33			130	$89,002.03	10	$14,708.30
	Department of Justice Collection	32	$503,784.02			32	$503,784.02	0	$0.00
	Treasury Collection	318	$102,178.96			318	$102,178.96	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	174	$75,293.60			174	$75,293.60	0	$0
	Total	2,087	$1,744,695.06	563	$733,009.21	754	$829,413.08	770	$182,[illegible]
PFC Payments	Voluntary Collection	53,459	$44,440,310.91	53,215	$44,257,149.60	180	$150,867.03	64	$32,294.28
	Administravtive Offset	323	$293,610.96			314	$285,626.97	9	$7,983.99
	Department of Justice Collection	0	$0.00			0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Treasury Collection	61	$14,545.52			61	$14,545.52	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	16	$15,631.34			16	$15,631.34	0	$0.00
	Total	53,859	$44,764,098.73	53,215	$44,257,149.60	571	$466,670.86	73	$40,278.27
Diaster Programs	Voluntary Collection	8,799	$10,187,514.94	8,493	$9,572,223.13	87	$417,449.98	219	$197,841.83
	Administravtive Offset	191	$331,060.57			172	$290,615.60	19	$40,444.97
	Department of Justice Collection	16	$50,024.60			16	$50,024.60	0	$0.00
	Treasury Collection	83	$61,370.10			83	$61,370.10	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	23	$20,115.26			23	$20,115.26	0	$0.00
	Total	9,112	$10,650,085.47	8,493	$9,572,223.13	381	$839,575.54	238	$238,286.80
Conservation Programs	Voluntary Collection	2,403	$1,294,441.30	2,230	$1,110,863.34	90	$164,141.74	83	$19,436.22
	Administravtive Offset	113	$127,163.60			102	$103,778.14	11	$23,385.46
	Department of Justice Collection	6	$750,748.46			6	$750,748.46	0	$0.00
	Treasury Collection	64	$38,585.62			64	$38,585.62	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	18	$12,455.28			18	$12,455.28	0	$0.00
	Total	2,604	$2,223,394.26	2,230	$1,110,863.34	280	$1,069,709.24	94	$42,821.68
Conservation Reserve Program	Voluntary Collection	268	$130,427.88	234	$120,329.45	34	$10,098.43	0	$0.00
	Administravtive Offset	31	$9,759.85			30	$7,959.85	1	$1,800.00
	Department of Justice Collection	0	$0.00			0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Treasury Collection	16	$3,317.63			16	$3,317.63	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	2	$501.03			2	$501.03	0	$0.00
	Total	317	$144,006.39	234	$120,329.45	82	$21,876.94	1	$1,800.00
Farm Storage Facility Loans	Voluntary Collection	18	$15,107.74	18	$15,107.74	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Administravtive Offset	0	$0.00			0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Department of Justice Collection	0	$0.00			0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Treasury Collection	0	$0.00			0	$0.00	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	1	$865.01			1	$865.01	0	$0.00
	Total	19	$15,972.75	18	$15,107.74	1	$865.01	0	$0.00
Penalty Income "Tobacco"	Voluntary Collection	58,334	$244,081,950.69	56,255	$243,661,950.73	2,047	$412,618.24	32	$7,381.72
	Administravtive Offset	2,272	$556,193.04			2,269	$549,228.81	3	$6,964.23
	Department of Justice Collection	52	$155,229.67			52	$155,229.67	0	$0.00
	Treasury Collection	1,021	$235,979.17			1,021	$235,979.17	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	332	$141,270.63			332	$141,270.63	0	$0.00
	Total	62,011	$245,170,623.20	56,255	$243,661,950.73	5,721	$1,494,326.52	35	$14,345.95
Other Programs	Voluntary Collection	1,897	$1,055,906.79	1,744	$808,751.36	40	$188,720.00	113	$58,435.43
	Administravtive Offset	80	$318,167.64			72	$241,053.50	8	$77,114.04
	Department of Justice Collection	30	$191,068.50			7	$180,832.21	23	$10,235.89
	Treasury Collection	35	$20,152.46			35	$20,152.46	0	$0.00
	Cross Servicing Collection	26	$27,098.02			26	$27,098.02	0	$0.00
	Total	2,068	$1,612,392.91	1,744	$808,751.36	180	$657,856.19	144	$145,785.36
Total Programs	Total	138,703	$311,826,603.24	125,660	$301,940,711.52	11,165	$8,880,606.28	1,878	$1,005,285.44

:-477
)-25-94)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Credit Corporation

INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1995 PRICE SUPPORT AND PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

1. County Office Name, Address, and Telephone Number
CHEROKEE COUNTY ASCS OFFICE (712)225-5717
P.O. BOX 455
CHEROKEE IA 51012-0455

2. ST. & CO. Code: 19-035

3. Farm Number: 2317

IS INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE, is entered into between the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the undersigned producers on e farm identified above for the 1995 crop(s) identified in column 4, which are designated by the operator of the farm by tering "YES" in column 5 and initialing in column 6. The agreements in the Intention to Participate are contained in the C-477 Appendix, entitled, Appendix to Form CCC-477, Intention to Participate in the 1995 Price Support and Production Adjustment ograms. By signing this Intention, the undersigned producers on the farm identified above intend to participate in the 1995 ice Support and Production Adjustment Program for the crop(s) identified in column 4, which are designated by the operator the farm by entering "YES" in column 5 and initialing in column 6. By signing this Intention, producers (1) acknowledge ceipt of the CCC-477 Appendix, and agree to abide by the terms contained therein, and (2) agree to comply with the regulations verning the applicable program and payment eligibility and limitation provisions. This program or activity will be nducted on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, handicap.

CROP 4	PARTICIPATING IN ARP 5	PARTICIPATING OPERATORS INITIALS 6	ACREAGE BASE 7	HWY 8	ACR 9	PERMITTED ACREAGE 10	MAXIMUM PAYMENT ACREAGE 11	ACRES FOR PAYMENT PLANTED 12	ACRES FOR PAYMENT PAY 85/92 13
ORN	Yes		153.0	141	11.5	141.5	118.6	118.6	.0
ATS	NO		.0	85					

The acreage base for any crop that is not listed is zero.

ERATOR Name and Address ID NO. 42 6268299
DORR H E IRRV FAMILY TRUST
%T.C. DORR
4466 F AVE
MARCUS, IA 510357067

CROP	CORN					
ADV. PAYMT	Y DEF					
% SHARE	ALL					

Other Farms

gnature: Harold E Don Dorr, Family Trust Date: 2-24-95

MARKS: by Thomas Cox POA

. CCC Representative's Signature. Date: MAR 10 '95

CC-477
(4-07-94)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Credit Corporation

INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1994 PRICE SUPPORT AND PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

1. County Office Name, Address, and Telephone Number
CHEROKEE COUNTY ASCS OFFICE (712)225-5717
P.O. BOX 455
CHEROKEE IA 51012-0455

2. ST. & CO. Code 19-035

3. Farm Number 2317

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his program or activity will be conducted on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ge, sex, marital status, or handicap.

CROP	PARTICIPATING IN APP	PARTICIPATING OPERATORS INITIALS	ACREAGE BASE	HAY	ACR	PERMITTED ACREAGE	MAXIMUM PAYMENT ACREAGE	ACRES FOR PAYMENT	
- 4 -	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 PLANTED	13 PAY 85/92
CORN	yes	[illegible]	153.0	141	.0	153.0	139.1	139.1	.0
OATS	NO	[illegible]	.0	95					

/ The acreage base for any crop that is not listed is zero.

PERATOR Name and Address ID NO. 42 6268299
DORR H E IRRV FAMILY TRUST
PO BOX 526
MARCUS, IA 510350526

CROP	CORN				
ADV. PAYMT	Y DEF	[illegible]			
% SHARE	ALL				

Other Farms

ignature: Harold E. Dorr Irrev Trust
Date: 3-18-94
EMARKS: by Thomas [illegible] POA

4. CCC Representative's Signature Michael W. Hamilton Date APR 0 4 94

CCC-477
(11-27-92)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Credit Corporation

CONTRACT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1993 PRICE SUPPORT AND PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

1. County Office Name, Address, and Telephone Number
CHEROKEE COUNTY ASCS OFFICE (712)225-5717
P.O. BOX 455
CHEROKEE IA 51012-0455

2. ST. & CO. Code 19-035

3. Farm Number 2317

THIS CONTRACT, is entered into between the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the undersigned producers on the farm identified above for the 1993 crop(s) identified in column 4 which are designated by the operator of the farm by entering "YES" in column 5 and/or 6, and initialing. The terms and conditions of the contract are contained in the appendix to the contract, entitled Appendix to CCC-477, and any addendum thereto. BY SIGNING THIS CONTRACT PRODUCERS ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE APPENDIX TO THIS CONTRACT, CCC-477 (APPENDIX). This program or activity will be conducted on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, or handicap.

CROP	PARTICIPATING IN APP	PARTICIPATING OPERATORS INITIALS	ACREAGE BASE	HWY	REQUIRED ACR	PERMITTED ACREAGE	MAXIMUM PAYMENT ACREAGE	ACRES FOR PAYMENT	
								PLANTED ACRES	0/50/92 ACRES
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CORN	Yes		153.0	141	15.3	137.7	114.8	114.8	.0
OATS	No		.0	85	.0	312.1	.0	.0	.0

1/ The acreage base for any crop that is not listed is zero.

OPERATOR Name and Address ID NO. 42 6268299
DORR H E IRRV FAMILY TRUST
PO BOX 526
MARCUS, IA 510350526

CROP	CORN					Other Farms
ADV. PAYMT	Y DEF					
% SHARE	ALL					

Signature: Harold Dorr Irrev. Fam. Trust Date:

REMARKS: Thomas P.O.A.

14. CCC Representative's Signature Michael W. Hamilton Date MAR 1 8 93

CC-477
(4-87-94)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Credit Corporation

INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1994 PRICE SUPPORT AND PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

1. County Office Name, Address, and Telephone Number
CHEROKEE COUNTY ASCS OFFICE (712)225-5717
P.O. BOX 455
CHEROKEE IA 51012-0455

2. ST. & CO. Code 19-035

3. Farm Number 2317

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his program or activity will be conducted on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ge, sex, marital status, or handicap.

CROP	PARTICIPATING IN APP	PARTICIPATING OPERATORS INITIALS	ACREAGE BASE	HWY	ACR	PERMITTED ACREAGE	MAXIMUM PAYMENT ACREAGE	ACRES FOR PAYMENT	
								PLANTED	PAY 85/92
- 4 -	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CORN	Yes	[illegible]	153.0	141	.0	153.0	130.1	130.1	.0
OATS	NO	[illegible]	.0	85					

/ The acreage base for any crop that is not listed is zero.

PERATOR Name and Address ID NO. 42 6268299
DORR H E IRRV FAMILY TRUST
PO BOX 526
MARCUS, IA 510350526

CROP	CORN					
ADV. PAYMT	Y DEF	[illegible]				
% SHARE	ALL					

Other Farms

Signature: Harold E. Dorr Irrev Trust
Date: 3-18-94

EMARKS: by Thomas [illegible] POA

4. CCC Representative's Signature Michael W. Hamilton Date APR 0 4 94

CCC-477
(11-27-92)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Credit Corporation

CONTRACT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1993 PRICE SUPPORT AND PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

1. County Office Name, Address, and Telephone Number
CHEROKEE COUNTY ASCS OFFICE (712)225-5717
P.O. BOX 455
CHEROKEE IA 51012-0455

2. ST. & CO. Code
19-035

3. Farm Number
2317

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CROP	PARTICIPATING IN ARP	PARTICIPATING OPERATORS INITIALS	ACREAGE BASE	HWY	REQUIRED ACR	PERMITTED ACREAGE	MAXIMUM PAYMENT ACREAGE	ACRES FOR PAYMENT	
								PLANTED ACRES	0/50/92 ACRES
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CORN	yes		153.0	141	15.3	137.7	114.8	114.8	.0
OATS	NO		.0	85	.0	312.1	.0	.0	.0

1/ The acreage base for any crop that is not listed is zero.

OPERATOR Name and Address ID NO. 42 6268299
DORR H E IRRV FAMILY TRUST
PO BOX 526
MARCUS, IA 510350526

CROP	CORN					
ADV. PAYMT	Y DEF	yes				
% SHARE	ALL					

Other Farms

Signature: Harold Dorr Irrev. Fam. Trust

Date:

REMARKS: Thomas Dorr P.O.A.

14. CCC Representative's Signature Michael W. Houston

Date MAR 1 8 93

8/21/01

TRANSCRIPT OF AUDIO TAPE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST FROM THE IOWA STATE FSA OFFICE, IDENTIFIED AS: COPY OF TAPE LABELED "EXERPTS FROM CONVERSATION BETWEEN TOM DORR AND[ ]6/14/95"

The parties are identified as Person 1 (assumed to be[ ]and Person 2 (assumed to be Tom Dorr).

The following are excerpts from a telephone conversation that was recorded on June 14, 1995, occurring between Tom Dorr and[ ]

PERSON 1: I, I guess I'd like to know as a beneficiary what...you know, I know, I understand your desire to keep this all out fr..., in the government's eyes, um, but I still think there should be some sort of explanation as to how these, you know exactly how this percentage, allocation is broken out, how its, how its applied each year.

PERSON 2: 50/50. I charge the Trust their half of the inputs, not the machine work. And I charge the, I charge the, I take that back, the only machine charge, the machine charge that I have charged always is $12.50 an acre for combining. That was an arrangement that was entered into when dad and Harold were still alive because of the high cost of combines.

PERSON 1: Yeah...

PERSON 2: Beside from that, uh, I take that back, and they also, and we have always charged the landlords a nickel a bushel to haul the grain into the elevator.

PERSON 1: Um Hmm...

PERSON 2: Beside those two machine charges everything is done on a 50/50 normal crop share basis, it always has. And, and, and frequently, quite frankly, I've, I've kicked stuff in, or, you know, if there is a split that isn't quite equal I always try to err on the side of the, on the side of the Trust. So, that's, that's the way its been, that's the way it always has been and that's the way these numbers will all resolve themselves if somebody wants to sit down and go through them that way.

PERSON 1: It, this was all done that way in an effort to ...

PERSON 2: ... avoid the $50,000 payment limitation to Pine Grove Farms.

PERSON 1: And... to, it is to your benefit to your other crop acres...

PERSON 2: ...that's right...

[ ]= Exemption b(7)(c)

PERSON 1: ...that, that um, this arrangement is set up in, in such a fashion?

PERSON 2: That's correct.

PERSON 1: Uh, do we, as a Trust, um, have any risk if the government ever audits such an arrangement? Or, was it done your saying back when it was legal? Is it still legal?

PERSON 2: I have no idea if its legal. No one has ever called me on it. I've done it this way. I've clearly kept track of all paper work this way. And, uh...

PERSON 1: I, I understand how it works, now...

PERSON 2: I have no idea. I suspect if they would audit, and, and somebody would decide to come in and take a look at this thing, they could, they could probably if they really wanted to, raise hell with us. Yep, you're absolutely right. Uh, and I'm trying to find out where I've overcharged at.

PERSON 1: Well, I, I don't know what the extension service includes in their, in their, um, uh, estimated figure on, on machinery expense.

PERSON 2: That, that, that figure, I mean if you look at that figure, and I believe, and I'd have to go back and find it, but I know that I discussed this with the trustees and I'm fairly certain that its in one of your annual reports. Uh, that custom fee actually is not a custom fee. That's crop rental income to me. That's my share of the income. I mean if you just sat down and, and, and...(5 second pause with music in background) excuse me...

PERSON 1: That's ok.

PERSON 2: Uh, what actually happened there was way back in, uh, perhaps even 89, but no, no that was in 90 because that doesn't show up until then. Either 90 or 91, uh, I re-filed the way the farm, the Trust land both for the [ ] Trust and the, the uh, Harold Dorr Trust are operated with the ASCS to, quite frankly, avoid minimum payment limitations. OK?

PERSON 1: Right

PERSON 2: And I basically told the ASCS and reregistered those two operations such that they are, uh, singularly farm operations on their own, OK?

PERSON 1: OK

PERSON 2: And I custom farm it. Alright, so how are you going to custom farm it? The reason I did it was, was to eliminate any potential, uh, when I could still do it at that point, of, of the government not liking the way I was doing it. I knew what was coming. I anticipated it the same as I did with proven corn yields way back in the 70's when I

began to prove our yields and got basis and the proven yields up. I transferred these out when it was still legal and legitimate to do so and basically they stand alone. Now, obviously I'm not going to go out here and operate all this ground and provide all this management expertise singularly, uh, for the purpose of, of, of doing it on a $60 an acre custom fee basis. Subsequently, what's happened is, the farm, I mean the, the family Trust pays all of its expenses and then we reimburse it and it sells all the income, and it sells all the crop, and it reimburses us with the 50/50 split basis.

PERSON 1: I, I, I remember vaguely something being discussed about that, I'll have to go back to the file...

PERSON 2: ...that's exactly what's going on (unintelligible) ...those custom fees the way they are...

PERSON 1: ...and then to determine, um, that, that was, again if that was in writing to us beneficiaries, I guess I missed that and I'll, I'll look for that again. Um...

PERSON 2: Even if it wasn't I know that that was clearly discussed with the trustees. The beneficiaries really had nothing to do with it.

PERSON 1: OK, well, well, I appreciate your correcting me on the interest and, uh, allocating those incomes to those different years. That does make a difference with that income. I think the custom fees, uh, when I took a look at that one, and I, you know, I just started looking at this in the last 6 weeks. When I took a look at that last figure, uh, and looking back in the file, it may not hurt for you to remind everybody, um, maybe even in the annual report....

PERSON 2: I don't, I don't, really want to tell everybody, not because I'm trying to hide the custom work fees from anybody, but because I don't want to make any bigger deal out of it than I have to, relative to everybody knowing about it, including the government.

END OF RECORDING.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Neil E. Harl
Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor
Department of Economics
478 Heady Hall
Ames, Iowa 50011-1070
515 294-6354
FAX 515 294-0700
E-MAIL harl@iastate.edu

July 29, 2002

The Hon. Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

At the request of the Committee staff, I have reviewed the March 6, 2002, transcript of proceedings at a hearing of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; a transcript of audio tape dated 8/21/01; a series of questions by senators with responses by Tom Dorr; letter from Secretary Ann M. Veneman to Sen. Tom Harkin, dated June 27, 2002; a memorandum dated June 25, 2002, from Steve Phillips, Iowa State FSA Office to James Little, Administrator FSA with enclosure; a letter from Thomas C. Dorr to the Cherokee County FSA Office dated June 25, 2002; a letter from Michael W. Houston, County Executive Director, to Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Living Trust dated June 5, 2002; memorandum from Donald J. Dorr to Michael W. Houston, dated June 25, 2002; letter from Sen. Mark Dayton to Sen. Tom Harkin, dated June 18, 2002; letter from Sen. Tom Harkin to Secretary Ann M. Veneman dated June 6, 2002; letter from Secretary Ann Veneman to Sen. Tom Harkin, dated May 28, 2002; memorandum from Joyce N. Fleischman, Acting Inspector General, to Thomas Dorr, dated May 28, 2002; letter from Sen. Tom Harkin to Secretary Ann M. Veneman, dated May 17, 2002; letter from Sen. Mark Dayton to Sen. Tom Harkin, dated March 21, 2002; letter from Secretary Ann M. Veneman, to Sen. Tom Harkin, dated April 12, 2002; and letter from Sen. Mark Dayton to Sen. Tom Harkin, dated March 21, 2002.

My observations and conclusions are as follows—

1. The law is clear that federal commodity program payments are ordinarily divided between landowner and tenant under a share lease, usually on the same basis that the crop is divided between the parties. It is also clear that, in the event of a custom farming arrangement, the federal commodity program payments are all paid to the landowner and none of the payments goes to the custom operator. *See 7 C.F.R. § 1497.7.*

2. It is also clear that irrevocable trusts qualify as a separate "person" for payment limitation purposes. *7 C.F.R. § 1497.10(b).*

3. For the Harold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust—

a. FSA has indicated that, from 1991 through 1993, for the Harold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust, all crops and payments were made to the trust with the trust listed as "owner/operator."

b. For 1990, Pine Grove Farms, Inc. is listed as the operator but all crops and payments were made to the trust.

c. For 1988 and 1989, Pine Grove Farms, Inc., is listed as the operator. FSA indicates that "contract and payment documents no longer available" but all crops went to the trust.

Thus, for the entire period, Pine Grove Farms, Inc. in the listing as "operator" was represented as performing services on a custom farming basis. The question is whether that reported arrangement is a correct representation by the parties. In the audio tape, dated 8/21/01, the arrangement is described as a "50/50 normal crop share basis." The tape recites that, except for $12.50 per acre for combine costs, the trust pays half of the inputs and receives half of the crop. In the Transcript of Proceedings, at page 159, lines 22-25, Mr. Dorr states that the trust "paid for the charges for my management services, my marketing services. They paid Dorr's Pine Grove Farm for the machinery services and that was the charge that they paid." In the Transcript of Proceedings, lines 11-13, Mr. Dorr admitted that the "charges were higher than the normal customary farming fee...."

On the basis of evidenced adduced to date, it appears that the report to the local FSA Office was at odds with how the parties actually shared the income and payments under the arrangement. The obvious conclusion is that the parties misrepresented the arrangement for the local FSA office.

The reason for a misrepresentation appears to be the belief that Pine Grove Farms, Inc., had it been the tenant under a 50/50 share lease arrangement, would have exceeded the payment limitation for that corporation as a separate person.

4. For the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust—

a. FSA has indicated that, from 1988 to 1993, the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust is listed as owner operator with the trust receiving crops and payments.

b. FSA does not reveal in its report who actually planted, tended and harvested the crops but the Transcript of Proceedings, page 156, lines 13-22, reveals that the trust was set up to receive 100 percent of the payments with Pine Grove Farm, Inc. providing "custom farming services for the family trust."

c. Again, the question is whether the arrangement reported to FSA is a correct representation.

July 29, 2002
Page 3

5. It is noted that there were five other entities involved in the overall operation—Belva Dorr Trust, Dorr, Inc., Tom Dorr and spouse, Melvin and Margaret Dorr and the Harold Dorr Trust. See Transcript of Proceedings, page 152, lines 13-24. I have not reviewed the details of the arrangements with the other entities.

6. Neither the Transcript of Proceedings nor the other evidence adduced provides credible evidence of the federal commodity program payments received by Pine Grove Farms, Inc. (or would have been received had the 50/50 share arrangement which apparently existed in fact been reported to FSA). This would be an appropriate area of inquiry.

7. Without the legal authority of discovery to compel production of documents, the allegations that records are not available (memorandum from Donald J. Dorr to Michael W. Houston dated June 25, 2002) or that "we are unable to comply" with the FSA request for records from 1988 to 1993 (letter from Thomas C. Dorr to Cherokee County FSA office dated June 25, 2002) cannot be subjected to appropriate review.

8. In my view, sufficient information has been adduced to justify placing the burden on the parties involved to produce the needed documents to show that payments from 1988 on were properly shared between and among the parties and to require evidence of commodity program payments received by Pine Grove Farms, Inc.

Please advise if you would like to have further commentary on any of the issues or points involved.

Sincerely,

Neil E. Harl
Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture
Professor of Economics
Member, Iowa Bar

Farm payment scenario

	Target price	Loan rate	Max. def. payment	Act. Def. payment
1989	$2.84	$2.06	$66,905	$49,750
1990	$2.75	$1.96	$48,795	$31,500
1991	$2.75	$1.89	$58,731	$28,000
1992	$2.75	$2.01	$49,671	$49,000
1993	$2.75	$1.99	$43,428	$16,000
1994	$2.75	$1.99	$43,333	$32,500

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
CENTRAL DIVISION

FILED 9/6/2002 3:14:57 PM, USDC, Southern District of Iowa

IOWA CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	CIVIL NO. 4-02-CV-10114
vs.	)	ORDER
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,	)	
Defendant.	)	

In compliance with this Court's Order of August 13, 2002, defendant has submitted the unredacted audio tape and letter which are being sought by plaintiff in their FOIA request. The Court has now conducted an in camera inspection and finds that both the audio tape and the letter should be produced to plaintiff. The letter should be produced in an unredacted form. The Court approves the redaction of the brief reference in the audio tape that refers to Dorr's intra-familial relationships.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2002.

RONALD E. LONGSTAFF, Chief Judge
United States District Court

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0100

April 12, 2002

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
731 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Last month your Committee held a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Tom Dorr for Under Secretary for Rural Development and Nancy Bryson for General Counsel at the Department of Agriculture. We very much appreciate the prompt action you took to confirm Nancy Bryson as General Counsel. However, we are disappointed that a vote was not taken on the confirmation of Mr. Dorr.

Tom Dorr withstood the rigors of the Agriculture Committee hearing with grace and poise. He responded to the Committee questionnaire, met individually with Committee members, responded to all questions posed during his five-hour hearing and fully responded to written questions submitted after the hearing.

We appreciated your cooperation in allowing witnesses from Iowa, who have known Tom the longest and worked with him in a variety of projects, testify on his behalf. These witnesses eloquently described the man that President Bush and I want on our team at USDA.

President Bush nominated Mr. Dorr nearly one year ago. As with all of USDA's mission areas, a key responsibility of the Rural Development Under Secretary is to guide development and implementation of the President's policies and programs that are vital to rural citizens, communities and economies throughout America. The Under Secretary for Rural Development is the lynchpin in enhancing federal-state-local partnerships to develop new initiatives, such as those involving bio-energy and telecommunications, and in making the long-term commitments necessary to ensure sustained success of these new ventures.

Senator Tom Harkin April 12, 2002

I know how strongly you and other Committee members are committed to strengthening America's rural development programs. It is important that this position be filled so strong leadership can be provided for initiatives that would spur growth and development in rural communities throughout the nation. Tom Dorr should be given the opportunity to provide that stewardship and I urge the Committee to act on his nomination.

We appreciate the cooperative relationship we have with the Committee and look forward to continuing to work with you on issues of importance to our nation's agricultural producers, consumers and rural residents.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Veneman

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Washington D.C. 20250

May 28, 2002

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: Joyce N. Fleischman
Acting Inspector General

SUBJECT: Thomas Dorr, Marcus, Iowa

This memorandum will highlight the Office of Inspector General's inquiries concerning Thomas C. Dorr, and his participation in Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs.

Based on a confidential Hotline complaint, which alleged that Mr. Dorr admitted on an audiotape that he had received FSA program funds for which he was not eligible, OIG conducted a preliminary inquiry to determine if there was predicate to open a criminal investigation of the matter. Our inquiry included an analysis of FSA farm files at the Iowa State FSA office related to Dorr and all known Dorr-related entities for the years 1993-2001, and an analysis of any available Year-End Review records covering 1993, 1994 and 1995. The results of OIGs initial inquiry were given to FSA with a request that FSA conduct further analysis of Mr. Dorr's participation in FSA programs. The FSA review was initiated in September 2001, and ultimately included Year-End Reviews for 1994, 1995 and 2000. FSA completed its review in December 2001. Based upon the information developed in this matter, the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Iowa, Sioux City office declined to prosecute.

OIG did not investigate Mr. Dorr's program participation for the years 1988-1992 primarily because there were no allegations or specific references made to these years in the original Hotline Complaint, nor was any information developed during the course of the preliminary inquiry to cause us to expand our review. We feel we have investigated the matters referred to OIG concerning Mr. Dorr fully and consider this case to be closed. To date, there is no new evidence to warrant reexamination nor the need to open a new investigation.

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Those persons interviewed included the County Executive Director, the County Office Committee, the Iowa State Program Specialist for Production Adjustment, the FSA District Director, and other members of the End-of-Year Review (EOYR) team who had participated in a review of the DORR farming operation.

SYNOPSIS

The results of the preliminary review found, in part, that THOMAS DORR, as Trustee and Power of Attorney for the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust (MGDIFT), had certified to FSA that MGDIFT had a 100 percent crop share interest in one of the farms. THOMAS DORR further certified that MGDIFT rented 100 percent of the equipment from (THOMAS) DORR'S PINE GROVE FARMS CO. (PGF), a corporation formed by THOMAS DORR, and that MGDIFT hired 100 percent of their labor from PGF. These certifications were originally made in 1989 on FSA forms CCC-477, Contract to Participate, and on CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan. For each year thereafter through 1995, THOMAS DORR certified that all items were exactly the same with no changes made.

In 1996, as a result of the audiotape provided by[ ], FSA conducted an EOYR of MGDIFT.

MGDIFT income expense records provided to FSA by THOMAS DORR in response to the 1994/1995 EOYR showed that PGF received approximately 50 percent of the gross MGDIFT farm income for 1993 through 1995, indicative of a crop share arrangement contrary to certifications THOMAS DORR made to FSA. PGF received payments from MGDIFT in the form of custom farming wages and farm management fees. The custom farming fees were significantly higher than the state average. Specifically, in 1994 PGF received approximately $200/acre in custom farming fees, and approximately $239/acre in 1995, while, according to[ ]Sac County, Iowa, the state average is $60 to $80 per acre.

The 1994/1995 EOYR found that MGDIFT had committed a "shares violation." The EOYR team recommended that the FSA documents be changed to reflect the accurate farming arrangement between THOMAS DORR and MGDIFT. The EOYR also determined that $16,638 was due back from the MGDIFT for committing the shares violation.

MGDIFT repaid FSA the requested amount. In a letter to FSA, the MGDIFT Trustee stated that the "...trustees do not agree with the determination....and specifically deny liability...," and felt that it was "...not economically in their best interest..." to appeal the determination. THOMAS DORR, in a subsequent letter to FSA, affirmed, "...the Trustees do not agree with the EOYR committee's finding...." Subsequently, the FSA Form CCC-478, Production Flexibility Contract for MGDIFT's 1996 farm year, was changed to reflect a 50/50 crop share agreement between PGF and MGDIFT.

Of additional significant concern to the OIG team was the fact that (1) there was no final EOYR report, exhibit and/or determination of any kind in the FSA county or state files that were provided to the team; (2) there was no evidence that an EOYR was ever conducted for PGF, although a notification letter was sent from the County Office Committee to PGF indicating that one would be

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performed; and (3) although the Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Trust (HEDIT) was set up the exact same way as the MGDIFT, an EOYR was never performed for HEDIT.

As a result of the review conducted by OIG, FSA agreed to conduct their own inquiry into this situation, which was performed during the week of September 10, 2001.

[ ]Audits, Investigations, State and County Review Branch, FSA, stated that their preliminary findings showed that: (1) in general, the Cherokee County Office files and record keeping system, including the THOMAS DORR related files, were sloppy, vague, and required follow-up that had not been performed; (2) the County Office Committee was not as involved in decision making as it should have been; (3) an EOYR needed to be performed for current DORR-related farming operations; (4) there was no evidence that a 1994/1995 EOYR was ever conducted for PGF, even though the County Office Committee had initiated one, and that an EOYR should be conducted; (5) there was no final checklist or exhibits pertaining to the 1994/1995 EOYR conducted on the MGDIFT; and (6) that information to which THOMAS DORR certified on the FSA forms was not how the MGDIFT appeared to have been operated for 1994/1995.

On September 14, 2001, OIG Special Agents interviewed[ ]who stated that THOMAS DORR[ ]said that in[ ]own review of MGDIFT documents,[ ]found that in 1993/1994 THOMAS DORR received custom farming fees that appeared to be well above the Iowa state average. Based on this finding,[ ]attempted to obtain an explanation from [ ][ ]subsequently taped two telephone calls from[ ]THOMAS DORR, during which this topic was discussed (Exhibit 1)[ ]said that[ ]told[ ]that[ ]had set up the trusts in this manner in order to avoid the payment limitations. THOMAS DORR told [ ]that he was not going to be doing all of this work for a mere $60/acre custom fee and that the custom fee was actually his share of the income. THOMAS DORR told[ ]that this arrangement had been discussed with the trustees.

DETAILS OF INTERVIEWS

[ ]Iowa State FSA, stated that in general, an End Of Year Review (EOYR) begins with a notification letter being sent to the producer. The County Office Committee then gathers requested documents from the producer which are then turned over to the EOYR team. The EOYR team meets and reviews all pertinent documents. In 1996[ ]asked[ ]Cherokee County FSA Office, to initiate an EOYR regarding the[ ]Irrevocable Family Trust (MGDIFT)[ ]to initiate the EOYR after [ ]had called the State Office on several occasions[ ]"seems" to remember that[ ]"...was aware the records showed that, yes indeed, it was a crop share arrangement versus what was reported."

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DORR'S PINE GROVE FARM (PGF) was not asked to pay back any monies because they had not earned the payments in question. All of the questionable payments had been made to the MGDIFT.

The only way FSA could have demanded a refund of USDA payments from PGF would have been if FSA had determined a "scheme and device" violation vs. the "shares violation."

[ ]said that the EOYR team did not determine a scheme and device because it felt that the taped telephone conversation would not be able to be used. Additionally, the County Office reasoned that[ ]was not a credible witness; that THOMAS DORR could have legally earned the money without "busting" the payment limitation; that THOMAS DORR paid back the monies as requested without dispute; and that there was always the possibility that THOMAS DORR could have come up with a "plausible explanation."

[ ]said that in[ ]opinion at the time, the tape was not credible,[ ]was not credible, payment limitations had not been evaded, and FSA was able to collect the money. It was a good place to hold the line, and THOMAS DORR's farming operation has been conducted properly ever since.

[ ]said that since the OIG inquiry[ ]agrees that it appeared intentional that the information on the farm operating plan did not reflect the actual farming operation[ ]agreed that the EOYR probably should have looked at the other trust[ ]does not know what happened to the EOYR that was supposed to be conducted on PGF.

[ ]FSA[ ]said that[ ]had been a[ ]the team that conducted the EOYR on the MGDIFT, a farming operation of which DORR was a trustee and power of attorney.

[ ]said that an EOYR was usually initiated when a FSA County Office found or suspected that a farming operation was not farming as it certified to on the farm-operating plan (CCC-502). In that case, the FSA County Office was required to send a letter to the producer which notified the producer that they have been selected for an EOYR. The letter asks that the producer provide farm related documents such as seed receipts, chemical receipts, and settlement sheets, etc.

[ ]who and how many people would be on each team. The EOYR team would meet with the producer, complete an eligibility checklist, and then make a recommendation to the County Office Committee. The EOYR team's recommendations were very well spelled out through the checklist and exhibits that they completed, all of which were turned over to the County Office Committee.

[ ]said that[ ]first heard there was a problem with the MGDIFT when[ ]Cherokee County FSA, said that[ ]had been calling the county office upset about payments PGF was receiving from MGDIFT.

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[ ] Iowa State FSA, told [ ] that FSA was obligated to follow-up. An EOYR of MGDIFT was initiated.

[ ] said that after reviewing the documents it became évident that FSA payments were not going to members of the trust, and the "crop sales were not adding up." It also became evident that PGF was controlling the MGDIFT beyond custom farming.

The EOYR team was initially tasked with looking only at MGDIFT, but it became apparent that MGDIFT and PGF were interrelated. PGF was a farming operation conducted 100 percent by THOMAS DORR [ ] could not recall whether or not the EOYR looked at PGF. The EOYR team had no reason to believe that PGF was being operated any differently than as reflected on the farm operating plan, so there would have been no trigger to cause them to review the entity. It was MGDIFT that was not operating as reflected on FSA documents.

[ ] directed [ ] Woodbury County FSA Office, to complete the exhibits for the EOYR for MGDIFT. The exhibits included an eligibility checklist that each member of the EOYR team was required to initial. The EOYR team concluded MGDIFT had a share violation. The County Office Committee concurred with the EOYR team's recommendation and concluded MGDIFT had a share violation.

[ ] Cherokee County FSA Office, has been assigned to the Cherokee County FSA Office for [ ] was aware that there was an EOYR conducted on the MGDIFT for 1994/1995 [ ] had been directed by [ ] to send notification letters of a pending EOYR to MGDIFT and to provide the County Office files to the EYOR team.

[ ] understood that the EYOR team recommended a share violation be determined based on the fact that MGDIFT had certified, through THOMAS DORR, that MGDIFT was 100 percent owner/operator with custom farming provided by THOMAS DORR, d.b.a. PGF. The documents provided by the trust during the EOYR showed THOMAS DORR/PGF received 50 percent of everything paid to the trust, contrary to these certifications. The EOYR team recommended that the County Office Committee collect back approximately $16,000 from the MGDIFT. The County Office Committee notified THOMAS DORR of the decision and informed him of his appeal rights.

[ ] received a letter back from MGDIFT which stated that they did not agree with the EOYR determination, but because of the cost and time associated with litigating the issue, they would go ahead and pay back the requested amount.

[ ] stated that the County Office did not have any documentation from the EOYR team supporting their recommendation [ ] did not remember receiving any documentation [ ] and the County Office Committee repeatedly asked the EOYR team to meet with them and explain their findings [ ] was told the EOYR team had no time to do so [ ] thought it was unusual that [ ] would not even meet with the County Office Committee to discuss the EOYR findings.

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[ ]Monoa County FSA, Denison, Iowa;[ ]Ida County FSA, Ida Grove, Iowa;[ ]Woodbury County FSA, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa[ ]Sac County FSA, Storm Lake, Iowa, and[ ]FSA, were members of the team that conducted the EOYR on the MGDIFT. They stated that following the review of the records and files provided during the EOYR for the MGDIFT, they concluded that what was reflected on the farm operating plan (CCC-502) was not how the farm was actually operating.

The records showed that MGDIFT received government payments, and on the very same day that MGDIFT received it's payment, it would cut a check for approximately half of the government payment payable to PGF as a custom farming expense. The records indicated a 50/50 crop share relationship that was in direct contradiction to what was certified on the FSA forms (100 percent MGDIFT). They recommended a shares violation because the landowner (MGDIFT) showed 100 percent interest in the crop, but in reality, were not at 100 percent risk.

The team members did not hear the taped telephone conversation between THOMAS DORR and [ ]until after the EOYR had been concluded. After hearing the comments THOMAS DORR made on the tape, they felt that their determination was correct.

[ ]1994/1994 County Office Committee members, stated that they concurred with the EOYR team's finding of a share violation. They understood that the determination was based on the fact that THOMAS DORR had said he was only custom farming for MGDIFT, when in fact; THOMAS DORR actually had an undisclosed share in the crop. THOMAS DORR was given an opportunity to meet with the County Office Committee and provided no explanation, but said that he was willing to pay back the money and not fight or appeal the determination. Since THOMAS DORR so readily agreed to pay back the money, the County Office Committee signed off on the EOYR findings and considered the matter closed. If there was any documentation from the EOYR, they did not know where it would be.

THOMAS DORR stated (Exhibit 2) that in 1974/1975, THOMAS DORR and[ ][ ]formed a partnership, DORR'S PINE GROVE FARMS CO. (PGF). In 1985/1986, the partnership dissolved and THOMAS DORR incorporated PGF as his own company, having 100 percent ownership.

MELVIN DORR originally formed the MELVIN G. DORR IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST (MGDIFT) in approximately 1976 for estate planning purposes. It owned 160 acres and consisted of THOMAS DORR and 9 siblings, including a stepsister. After his stepsister's death in 1983, her portion went back into the trust.

There are now three MGDIFTs: (1) the original MGDIFT trust, (2) MGDIFT/[ ]IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST, and (3) MGDIFT/[ ]IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST.

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In 1997,[ ]THOMAS DORR, asked that share of the trust be separated out[ ]did not like how MGDIFT was operated and was concerned about how the MGDIFT equities were invested. Ultimately, at[ ] request[ ]share of MGDIFT was set off into a separate trust.

HAROLD DORR, THOMAS DORR's uncle, originally established the HAROLD E. DORR IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST (HEDIFT) as an estate-planning tool consisting of his children and grandchildren. THOMAS DORR does not own any interest in this corporation but does have signature authority.

DORR'S PINE GROVE FARMS CO. (PGF) has traditionally not owned any farmland, but was established as a custom-farming entity to employ labor, own machinery, and /or to lease farmland. PGF has provided custom-farming to a multitude of people to include the HAROLD E. DORR IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST (HEDIFT),[ ]IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST (MGDIFT) and DIAMOND D, a corporation held by[ ]in Cherokee County, Iowa. PGF also provides custom-farming services to several neighbors.

The relationship between THOMAS DORR, d.b.a. PGF, and the MGDIFT began in the mid to late 1970's with a crop share rent agreement with PGF as the lessee. This agreement was in place until approximately 1987/1988 when the MGDIFT trustees, to include THOMAS DORR, and beneficiaries agreed that PGF would provide the custom-farming services for MGDIFT. The custom-farming agreement between PGF and MGDIFT remained in place until 1995 when [ ]expressed dissatisfaction with the arrangement resulting in an End-of-Year Review being conducted by the Farms Service Agency (FSA).

The same relationship agreements were in place between PGF and the HEDIFT.

The custom-farming agreement between MGDIFT and PGF was established at the will of the trustees. The relationship was designed to allow MGDIFT to have flexibility in the way it operated. There was no custom-farming fee agreed upon. MGDIFT paid all inputs and received approximately 50 percent of the gross income. PGF received the other 50 percent of the gross income in custom-farming fees. THOMAS DORR believes his custom-farming fees were competitive, if not maybe a little high. However, the relationship between him and the trustees made them willing to pay this amount. He had the same payment arrangements with the HDIFT.

He understood that the[ ]IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST (MGDIFT) had been selected for an End-of-Year Review (EOYR) for the 1994/1995 crop years because of [ ]letters to the FSA and his insistence that the MGDIFT be reviewed. THOMAS DORR initially had a couple of phone conversations with[ ]but later THOMAS DORR decided not to talk to[ ]any further. THOMAS DORR understood that

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originally the County Office Committee decided there was no issue to review. Ultimately, however, [ ] complaints "went up the FSA chain" and resulted in an EOYR.

THOMAS DORR was notified to meet with the EOYR committee and to provide them with documents. He does not remember what transpired during the meeting. He provided the documents for the MGDIFT. THOMAS DORR or PGF was never the subject of an EOYR or audit that he was aware of.

When he was notified of the EOYR determination, THOMAS DORR's understanding of the determination was very vague. Subsequently, he contacted an attorney.

Agent's Note: WILLIAM C. BRIDGFORTH, attorney, Ramsay, Bridgforth, Harrelson, and Starling, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, was present during the interview of THOMAS DORR. At this point in the interview, BRIDGEFORTH interjected that the EOYR determination was a "commensurate share issue."

In approximately 1996, after receiving the determination letter from FSA, THOMAS DORR contacted BRIDGFORTH to ask for guidance. BRIDGFORTH advised that he could fight the issue but that the attorney's fees would cost considerably more than what FSA was asking MGDIFT to pay back. Subsequently, the trustees met and decided to just pay back the requested amount. In hindsight, THOMAS DORR said that he should have gone ahead and spent MGDIFT money and "fight it."

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THOMAS DORR defined "custom-farming" as "a relationship between two parties to perform certain services at a rate that the two parties mutually agree on." The trustees felt that a custom-farming agreement would give the ability to limit their cost exposure over a crop share arrangement. Even though PGF appeared to have received 50 percent of the gross income, the trustees ultimately had the flexibility to decide what level to pay. If the gross revenue decreased, MGDIFT could decide to pay PGF less in custom-farming fees.

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THOMAS DORR stated that his custom-farming fee was "variable based on year to year operations." The trustees could meet at any time and decide what to pay him. For the custom services PGF provided, the trustees annually decided to compensate him to what ended up being about 50 percent of the gross income. In some years, he was also paid bonuses based on performance. There was no written custom-farming agreement in place.

Agent's Note: At this point in the interview TOM DORR listened to the taped telephone conversation between himself and [ ] that [ ] had provided to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). TOM DORR confirmed that it was his voice on the tape and that he did have some telephone conversations with [ ] regarding these issues.

Agent's Note: After the tape was played, WILLIAM C. BRIDGFORTH, attorney, stated that there could not be payment limitation concerns because the payments were so insignificant. He stated that there was nothing wrong with any arrangement that increased the economic impact of payments. He stated that the formation of additional entities with payment limitation in mind had never been a problem, and that the FSA forms had been filled out accurately because MGDIFT did get 100 percent of the program payments initially. TOM DORR stated that this was prudent business planning in the context of normal business operations.

THOMAS DORR had no answer to the statement he made on the tape that "...that custom fee actually is not a custom fee. That's crop rental income to me. That's my share of the income."

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After conferring with BRIDGFORTH, THOMAS DORR stated that [ ] was being very accusatory on the tape, stating that PGF was taking advantage of the MGDIFT.

THOMAS DORR said that on the tape he was trying to explain the difference between crop share and custom-farming. He tried to explain that that this was a custom-farming agreement and that the trust was paying PGF for custom services on what appeared to be a 50/50 crop share

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basis. His point to[ ]was that this was a custom-farming operation and that the risk shares were different, and that all of the other trustees and beneficiaries were satisfied with the arrangements.

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THOMAS DORR stated that during the taped phone calls, he was trying to "ameliorate"[ ]and find an easier way to define for[ ]a custom-farming relationship versus a crop share relationship. He was just trying to point out to[ ]that PGF was not taking advantage of the MGDIFT in terms of revenue. That was the context of the discussions that were taped by[ ]

When asked by the Reporting Agent why he did not think[ ]could not understand the difference between custom-farming and crop share without THOMAS DORR trying to redefine it for him, THOMAS DORR could not answer.

In 1996, THOMAS DORR sat down with the trustees and reviewed the End-of-Year Review determination with them and also with the FSA County Executive Director. The trustees decided that in order to avoid more hassles, they would change the arrangement to a 50/50 crop share arrangement.

THOMAS DORR said that if he had had a fixed-fee custom-farming arrangement, the trust could have lost money if their revenue decreased, yet they were forced to pay a certain custom fee to PGF. While he did not have a fixed fee arrangement, he thinks he was guaranteed a minimum amount in order to cover expenses he would have incurred.

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The reason PGF was paid on the same day that MGDIFT received the FSA program payments was that these payments were the mechanism to show there was money in the bank. PGF could not get paid unless there was money. After MGDIFT received the FSA program payments, they paid him his fees.

Attached as Exhibit 3 is correspondence dated September 25, 2001, received from BRIDGFORTH by Reporting Agent. BRIDGFORTH restates his position that there is no "payment limitation issue."

Attached as Exhibit 4 is a memorandum dated September 19, 2001 from the Acting Administrator, FSA, which details the results of the FSA independent review team's findings and recommendations.

8/21/01

TRANSCRIPT OF AUDIO TAPE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST FROM THE IOWA STATE FSA OFFICE, IDENTIFIED AS: COPY OF TAPE LABELED "EXERPTS FROM CONVERSATION BETWEEN TOM DORR AND[ ]6/14/95"

The parties are identified as Person 1 (assumed to be[ ]and Person 2 (assumed to be Tom Dorr).

The following are excerpts from a telephone conversation that was recorded on June 14, 1995, occurring between Tom Dorr and[ ]

PERSON 1: I, I guess I'd like to know as a beneficiary what...you know, I know, I understand your desire to keep this all out fr..., in the government's eyes, um, but I still think there should be some sort of explanation as to how these, you know exactly how this percentage, allocation is broken out, how its, how its applied each year.

PERSON 2: 50/50. I charge the Trust their half of the inputs, not the machine work. And I charge the, I charge the, I take that back, the only machine charge, the machine charge that I have charged always is $12.50 an acre for combining. That was an arrangement that was entered into when dad and Harold were still alive because of the high cost of combines.

PERSON 1: Yeah...

PERSON 2: Beside from that, uh, I take that back, and they also, and we have always charged the landlords a nickel a bushel to haul the grain into the elevator.

PERSON 1: Um Hmm...

PERSON 2: Beside those two machine charges everything is done on a 50/50 normal crop share basis, it always has. And, and, and frequently, quite frankly, I've, I've kicked stuff in, or, you know, if there is a split that isn't quite equal I always try to err on the side of the, on the side of the Trust. So, that's, that's the way its been, that's the way it always has been and that's the way these numbers will all resolve themselves if somebody wants to sit down and go through them that way.

PERSON 1: It, this was all done that way in an effort to ...

PERSON 2: ... avoid the $50,000 payment limitation to Pine Grove Farms.

PERSON 1: And... to, it is to your benefit to your other crop acres...

PERSON 2: ...that's right...

PERSON 1: ...that, that um, this arrangement is set up in, in such a fashion?

PERSON 2: That's correct.

PERSON 1: Uh, do we, as a Trust, um, have any risk if the government ever audits such an arrangement? Or, was it done your saying back when it was legal? Is it still legal?

PERSON 2: I have no idea if its legal. No one has ever called me on it. I've done it this way. I've clearly kept track of all paper work this way. And, uh...

PERSON 1: I, I understand how it works, now...

PERSON 2: I have no idea. I suspect if they would audit, and, and somebody would decide to come in and take a look at this thing, they could, they could probably if they really wanted to, raise hell with us. Yep, you're absolutely right. Uh, and I'm trying to find out where I've overcharged at.

PERSON 1: Well, I, I don't know what the extension service includes in their, in their, um, uh, estimated figure on, on machinery expense.

PERSON 2: That, that, that figure, I mean if you look at that figure, and I believe, and I'd have to go back and find it, but I know that I discussed this with the trustees and I'm fairly certain that its in one of your annual reports. Uh, that custom fee actually is not a custom fee. That's crop rental income to me. That's my share of the income. I mean if you just sat down and, and, and...(5 second pause with music in background) excuse me...

PERSON 1: That's ok.

PERSON 2: Uh, what actually happened there was way back in, uh, perhaps even 89, but no, no that was in 90 because that doesn't show up until then. Either 90 or 91, uh, I re-filed the way the farm, the Trust land both for the[ ]Trust and the, the uh, Harold Dorr Trust are operated with the ASCS to, quite frankly, avoid minimum payment limitations. OK?

PERSON 1: Right

PERSON 2: And I basically told the ASCS and reregistered those two operations such that they are, uh, singularly farm operations on their own, OK?

PERSON 1: OK

PERSON 2: And I custom farm it. Alright, so how are you going to custom farm it? The reason I did it was, was to eliminate any potential, uh, when I could still do it at that point, of, of the government not liking the way I was doing it. I knew what was coming. I anticipated it the same as I did with proven corn yields way back in the 70's when I

began to prove our yields and got basis and the proven yields up. I transferred these out when it was still legal and legitimate to do so and basically they stand alone. Now, obviously I'm not going to go out here and operate all this ground and provide all this management expertise singularly, uh, for the purpose of, of, of doing it on a $60 an acre custom fee basis. Subsequently, what's happened is, the farm, I mean the, the family Trust pays all of its expenses and then we reimburse it and it sells all the income, and it sells all the crop, and it reimburses us with the 50/50 split basis.

PERSON 1: I, I, I remember vaguely something being discussed about that. I'll have to go back to the file...

PERSON 2: ...that's exactly what's going on (unintelligible) ...those custom fees the way they are...

PERSON 1: ...and then to determine, um, that, that was, again if that was in writing to us beneficiaries, I guess I missed that and I'll, I'll look for that again. Um...

PERSON 2: Even if it wasn't I know that that was clearly discussed with the trustees. The beneficiaries really had nothing to do with it.

PERSON 1: OK, well, well, I appreciate your correcting me on the interest and, uh, allocating those incomes to those different years. That does make a difference with that income. I think the custom fees, uh, when I took a look at that one, and I, you know, I just started looking at this in the last 6 weeks. When I took a look at that last figure, uh, and looking back in the file, it may not hurt for you to remind everybody, um, maybe even in the annual report....

PERSON 2: I don't, I don't, really want to tell everybody, not because I'm trying to hide the custom work fees from anybody, but because I don't want to make any bigger deal out of it than I have to, relative to everybody knowing about it, including the government.

END OF RECORDING.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

NAME: Thomas C. Dorr

CASE NUMBER: PS-301-616

ADDRESS: 4466 F Avenue
Marcus, Iowa 51035

DATE: Sept. 21, 2001

AGENT: [ ]

TELEPHONE: 712-376-2171
202-720-2261

DETAILS: This interview took place in the offices of the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, USDA, OIG, Washington, D.C. Present during the interview were THOMAS C. DORR, interviewee; William C. Bridgforth, Attorney, Ramsay, Bridgforth, Harrelson, and Starling, Pine Bluff, Arkansas[ ]

THOMAS DORR (T. DORR) stated that he grew up working on the family farm, assisting [ ]and his uncle, HAROLD DORR, who originally had a partnership operating a grain elevator and turkey/poultry operation. T. DORR was away from farming from approximately 1964 –1972 while he was enrolled in college, the military service, and was ultimately employed by the Westinghouse Learning Corporation. Approximately January/February 1972, HAROLD DORR was having health problems, and[ ]was aging, so T. DORR went back to work the family farm and businesses. The original family businesses consisted of hog feeding operation and grain dealer/elevator operations. Ultimately, the farming operations were expanded.

In 1974/1975, T. DORR and[ ]formed a partnership, DORR'S PINE GROVE FARMS CO. (DPGF). In 1985/1986, the partnership dissolved and T. DORR incorporated DPGF as his own company, having 100 percent ownership.

In approximately 1989/1990, T. DORR formed PGF Seeds Inc, holding 100 percent ownership. PGF Seeds Inc. was established as a seed corporation with the sole purpose of producing, conditioning, and distributing soybean seed through a retail operation. The seed was produced through contracts with DPGF, family and other farming operations. PGF Seeds Inc. did no farming itself. Ultimately, PGF Seeds Inc. evolved into a wholesale seed producer as well as a licensed grain dealer and warehouse.

T. DORR also holds 9-10 percent stock and is president of DORR Inc. DORR Inc. was a family corporation started 50/50 by[ ]and his uncle, HAROLD DORR, in the 1940s when they were operating the grain elevator. It was formed to hold farm properties owned and as an investment holding company. HAROLD DORR died in the 1980s and his heirs sold his share to[ ]later gifted some of the stock to[ ] including T. DORR, creating SEVEN SONS. SEVEN SONS was eventually merged into DORR Inc. with T. DORR's[ ]holding approximately 53 percent of the stock and T. DORR and his siblings holding the remainder.

[ ]originally formed the[ ]IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST (MGDIFT) in approximately 1976 for estate planning purposes. It owned 160 acres and consisted of T. DORR and 9 siblings, including a stepsister. After his stepsister's death in 1983, her portion went back into the trust.

There are now three MGDIFTs: (1) the original MGDIFT trust, (2) MGDIFT/[ ] IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST, and (3) MGDIFT/[ ]IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST.

In 1997,[ ]to T. DORR, asked that[ ]share of the trust be separated out. [...

]did not like how MGDIFT was operated and[ ]was concerned about how the MGDIFT equities were invested. Ultimately, at[ ]request[ ]share of MGDIFT was set off into a separate trust.

[ ]to T. DORR, holds similar social views as[ ]although [ ]is not as aggressive[ ]felt like there were other opportunities that[ ]would rather[ ]share of MGDIFT be invested in, and just this year asked that[ ]portion of MGDIFT be set off in a separate trust.

T. DORR also has interest in DORR SWINE LLC held by himself[ ]as well as DOOR'S NORTH PORK LLC held by himself, [ ]from Austin, Texas. Both entities are swine finishing facilities.

HAROLD DORR, T. DORR's uncle, originally established the HAROLD E. DORR IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST (HEDIFT) as an estate-planning tool consisting of his [ ]T. DORR does not own any interest in this corporation but does have signature authority. Additionally, T. DORR has signature authority for his[ ]and MOR a limited liability corporation whose beneficiaries are HAROLD DORR's[ ]as well as the HAROLD DORR IRREVOCALBE TRUST that holds property in transition from his uncle's estate until[ ] passes away.

AUSTIN PROPERTIES was a partnership between T. DORR and[ ] They purchased a 40-acre tract of land with the option to rent 80 acres. This partnership was sold one year ago last spring.

WHISKEY CREEK MACHINERY was established in 1998/1999 as a limited liability partnership between T. DORR and[ ]It was formed to provide custom-work for both DORR'S PINE GROVE FARM CO. (DPGF) and[ ] farming operation. The only asset owned by WHISKEY CREEK MACHINERY is one tractor.

IOTEX was a corporation formed by[ ]when[ ]and HAROLD DOOR were involved in oil and gas drilling. IOTEX gave stock to T. DORR and[ ] [ ]in exchange for 80 acres of farmland that T. DORR and[ ]had in Iowa. Eventually IOTEX was folded into SEVEN SONS, which was eventually merged into DORR INC.

DORR'S PINE GROVE FARMS CO. (DPGF) has traditionally not owned any farmland, but was established as a custom-farming entity to employ labor, own machinery and /or to lease farmland. DPGF has provided custom-farming to a multitude of people to include the HAROLD E. DORR IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST (HEDIFT)[ ]IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST (MGDIFT) and DIAMOND D, a corporation held by[ ] in Cherokee County, Iowa. DPGF also provides custom-farming services to several neighbors.

The relationship between T. DORR, d.b.a. DPGF, and the MGDIFT began in the mid to late 1970's with a crop share rent agreement with DPGF as the lessee. This agreement was in place until approximately 1987/1988 when the MGDIFT trustees, to include T. DORR, and beneficiaries agreed that DPGF would provide the custom-farming services for MGDIFT. The custom-farming agreement between DPGF and MGDIFT remained in place until 1995 when [ ]expressed dissatisfaction with the arrangement resulting in an End-of-Year Review being conducted by the Farms Service Agency (FSA).

The same relationship agreements were in place between DPGF and the HEDIFT.

The custom-farming agreement between MGDIFT and DPGF was established at the will of the trustees. The relationship was designed to allow MGDIFT to have flexibility in the way it operated. There was no custom-farming fee agreed upon. MGDIFT paid all inputs and received approximately 50 percent of the gross income. DPGF received the other 50 percent of the gross income in custom-farming fees. T. DORR believes his custom-farming fees were competitive, if not maybe a little high. However, the relationship between him and the trustees made them willing to pay this amount. He had the same payment arrangements with the HDIFT.

His custom-farming arrangement with[ ]DIAMOND D was a combination of a fixed custom-farming fee and a management fee based on performance.

Initially[ ]HAROD DORR each set up two trusts: an "irrevocable family trust "and an "irrevocable trust." The "irrevocable family trusts" held farm properties, and the "irrevocable trusts" held equities. The identification numbers were sequential in order and invariably they were always mistakenly writing down the wrong identification numbers and having to correct them.

He understood that the[ ]IRREVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST (MGDIFT) had been selected for an End-of-Year Review (EOYR) for the 1994/1995 crop years because of [ ]letters to the FSA and[ ]insistence that the MGDIFT be reviewed. T. DORR initially had a couple of phone conversations with[ ]but later T. DORR decided not to talk to[ ]any further. T. DORR understood that originally the County Office

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RAMSAY BRIDGFORTH LAW

RAMSAY, BRIDGFORTH, HARRELSON AND STARLING LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
(FOUNDED AS COLEMAN & GANTT IN 1911)

W. F. COLEMAN 1870-1956
N. J. GANTT, JR. 1879-1973
N. J. STARLING, JR. 1941-1990
WILLIAM C. BRIDGFORTH
F. DANIEL HARRELSON, P.A.
SPENCER F. ROBINSON
PHILLIP E. HALEY

11TH FLOOR SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL BUILDING
501 MAIN STREET
P. O. BOX 8509
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS 71611-8509

TELEPHONE 870-535-9000
FAX 870-535-8344

ROSALIND M. MOUSER
WILLIAM M. BRIDGFORTH
DAVID R. BRIDGFORTH
ANTHONY A. MILLARD

LOUIS L. RAMSAY
OF COUNSEL

September 25, 2001

VIA FACSIMILE 913.261.7699
Original to Follow via Mail

[ ]

United States Department of Agriculture
Office of the Inspector General
5799 Broadmoor, Suite 700
Mission, Kansas 66202

Re: Thomas Dorr Interview

Dear[ ]

During the interview on Friday there was some discussion about whether or not there was a "payment limitation issue" during the years in question. It was, and is, my position that there was no such issue in any year under review. That position was also held, we maintain, by the Iowa end-of-year review team and by the Cherokee County Committee. In it's January 8, 1997 letter, a copy of which we gave to you at the meeting, the county committee indicated its concern was with commensurate shares, not payment limitations.

The[ ]of the Arkansas FSA and it's then[ ]as well as[ ]was[ ]in Washington at FSA to which payment limitation inquiries were sent, agreed as well. As is my practice, when issues are raised I attempt to get the best and wisest counsel in the USDA to review my conclusions. When I was contacted by[ ], one of the trustees, and notified that the trust had received a letter notifying it that the end-of-year review would be conducted, I requested copies of the CCC-502s and other relevant materials for 1993, 1994 and 1995. Since the total of all payments that were received by the combined Dorr's Pine Grove Farm, Trust A and Trust B, taken at a 50/50 rental in each year was well under the $50,000 limitation that one "person" could receive (exclusive of Findley payments which had no limit), and since the total of those payments in 1989 and 1990 (the year that the custom farming arrangement was first worked out by the trustees) was $39,609 and $31,064 respectively, there could be no payment limitation issues, regardless of the custom

September 25, 2001
Page No. 2

farming rates. In seeking expert review of my opinion, on June 5, 1996 I wrote Parks Shackleford, then Assistant Deputy Director for Farm Programs for USDA in Washington. (Exhibit A). In that letter I outlined a scenario similar to the one here, pointing out that the custom farming rates were more than customary for the area. That same day I talked with [ ] the then [ ] for FSA in Arkansas. It has been my experience that [ ] is one of the most knowledgeable [ ] in any state office in the nation. After [ ] agreed with me by telephone, I wrote the attached Exhibit B, outlining our discussion on this as well as other cases that day. I received a letter from the [ ] (Exhibit C) agreeing with my conclusions.

Then, in a few days, I received a call from [ ] in Washington to whom Mr. Shackleford had directed my letter, and [ ] agreed there was no payment limitation issue, but raised an issue of "at risk". "At risk", as you know, is a factor of "actively engaged in farming" (as is commensurate shares), and is not a payment limitation issue. My response to [ ] is enclosed (Exhibit D).

As you will recall, the target price for corn decreased each year from 1987 through 1990, and while the basic loan rate (the rate to which the payment limitation applied) decreased as well, the maximum amount that could be subject to limitation in 1989 was 78 cents per bushel, and the maximum amount in 1990 was 79 cents per bushel. The effective loan rate was less than the basic rate in those years, but the difference was Findley and not subject to the limitation. The actual payment rates were between 51 and 58 cents in those years. Had the maximum been paid, it still would not matter, as so little payment was involved.

Even if there was an issue, it is perfectly legal and within the regulations for producers to take action to avoid payment limitation problems. That is why congress created the three entity rule with the 1987 amendments to the Farm Bill to be effective with the 1989 crop year. Farmers with payment limitation problems (which Tom Dorr did not have) were given all of 1988 to reorganize their farms, without the necessity of any substantive change, to create additional entities to avoid payment limitation problems.

While I do not agree that there is a commensurate share issue or an at risk issue that is fatal to the trust's 1993, 1994 and 1995 payments, it is moot as all have been repaid. I hope that this additional information will assist you in determining that this matter should be concluded. It was good to meet you and [ ]

Very truly yours,

RAMSAY, BRIDGFORTH, HARRELSON
AND STARLING LLP

By Bill Bridgforth
William C. Bridgforth

WCB:[ ]
Enclosures as noted
cc:[ ]
Tom Dorr

RAMSAY, BRIDGFORTH, HARRELSON AND STARLING
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
(FOUNDED AS COLEMAN & GANTT IN 1911)

11TH FLOOR SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL BUILDING
501 MAIN STREET
P. O. BOX 8509
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS 71611-8509

TELEPHONE 501-535-0000
FAX 501-535-8544

W. F. COLEMAN 1870-1938
H. J. GANTT, JR. 1873-1875
H. J. STARLING, JR. 1941-1990
WILLIAM C. BRIDGFORTH
F. DANIEL HARRELSON, P.A.
SPENCER R. ROBINSON
PHILLIP A. BALEY
† PATRICK A. BURROW
† NOT ADMITTED IN ARKANSAS

ROSALIND M. HOUSCH
WILLIAM M. BRIDGFORTH
DAVID R. BRIDGFORTH
WM. JAY HARRELSON
JOHN T. STARLING

LOUIS L. RAMSAY
SENIOR COUNSEL

June 5, 1996

VIA FAX 202/720-4726

Mr. Parks Shackleford
Assistant Deputy Administrator for
Farm Programs
United States Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 2415
Washington, D. C. 20013-2415

Dear Parks:

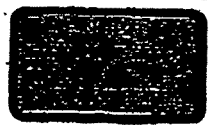
Please let me know if you agree with my analysis of the following situation. If you disagree, please let me know what I am missing.

From 1987 through 1995, Ron was a trustee and beneficiary (along with seven others) of an irrevocable trust created many years ago (Trust A). His uncle and his uncles family have a similar irrevocable trust, though Ron has no interest in this trust (Trust B). Ron farms in a partnership (DPG Farms) that leases approximately 1,500 acres from family members on a 50/50 share (Family Farm). DPG Farms custom farms for Trust A and Trust B under an oral arrangement that provides that the price the partnership receives for the custom farming is 50% of the gross proceeds from the operation. This represents DPG receiving more than the customary custom farming price.

The total payments from Family Farm are $80,000, with DPG Farms receiving 50%, or $40,000. The total payments received by Trust A are $7,000 and the total payments received by Trust B are $6,000. Thus, if DPG Farms farmed the trust properties on the same 50/50 share, it would receive a total of $46,500. While this figure varied from year to year, in no year would to total approach $50,000. In most years, the total would be less than $40,000.

I concluded that since there was no payment limitation issue, I saw no problem from an FSA standpoint. FSA's concern would have been if the custom farming rates were being used to avoid the payment limitation. In this case, it could not have been.

If you will let me know what you think I will really appreciate it.



Very truly yours,

RAMSAY, BRIDGFORTH, HARRELSON
STARLING

William C. Bridgforth

RAMSAY BRIDGFORTH LAW

RAMSAY, BRIDGFORTH, HARRELSON AND STARLING
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
(FOUNDED AS COLEMAN & GANTT IN 1911)

11TH FLOOR SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL BUILDING
501 MAIN STREET
P. O. BOX 8509
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS 71611-8509

TELEPHONE 501-534-8000
FAX 501-534-4244

June 5, 1996

VIA FAX 501/324-5895

[ ]
Arkansas State ASCS Office
P. O. Box 2781
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Re: Financing Issues

Dear[ ]

Thank you for spending time with me going over the financing/cash rent tenant rules. I am going to attempt to put down what I think we said for your review and concurrence.

Situation 1: Ron owns farm land and farm equipment. He cash leases the land to a partnership composed of Ron, Bill, Frank and Mark (RBFM Farms). RBFM Farms leases the equipment necessary to farm from Ron. RBFM Farms obtains a production from the First National Bank, and each partner is personally liable on that loan. As security for the loan, the bank takes a lien on the partnership crops and market transition payments. In addition, the bank takes a lien of Ron's farm equipment. the same equipment that is being leased to RBFM.

Answer: We determined that as long as the equipment lease payments were customary and were paid in accordance with the time period determined by the county in question to be customary, that RBFM could count equipment as its left hand contribution for both actively engaged requirements and to meet the requirement of the cash rent tenant rule for equipment and management.

Also, it would make no difference if Ron pledged land or other assets for the loan as well. In addition, the above does not adversely affect the commensurate share rule since all of the partners are equally liable on the production loan.

Situation 2: R, Inc., owned 100% by Ron, farmed 2,000 acres in Tennessee in 1995. For 1996, R, Inc. will farm most of the same land that it farmed in 1995. In addition, Ron and two other individuals have formed R[illegible]nd Ron & Fred, Inc. These two corporations have fo[illegible] called RBF Farms. RBF

Farms has cash leased 1,500 acres in Louisiana and share leased 1,500 acres in Mississippi. RBF Farms borrows all of its capital from R, Inc. and leases the necessary farm equipment from R, Inc. R, Inc. will pledge its equipment for the loan from a national bank, the proceeds of which it will either use itself or lend to RBF Farms.

Answer: We determined that since neither Ron nor R, Inc. had any interest in the crops or the crop proceeds on the lands being farmed by RBF Farms, that the partnership could borrow all of its capital and lease all of its equipment from R, Inc. and count both capital and equipment as left hand contributions, and that the cash rent tenant rule which would apply to the Louisiana lands would be met if management was provided as required.

Situation 3: From 1997 through 1995, Ron was a trustee and beneficiary (along with seven others) of an irrevocable trust created many years ago (Trust A). His uncle and his uncles family have a similar irrevocable trust, though Ron has no interest in this trust (Trust B). Ron farms in a partnership (DPG Farms) that leases approximately 1,500 acres from family members on a 50/50 share (Family Farm). DPG custom farms for Trust A and Trust B under an oral arrangement that provides that the price the partnership receives for the custom farming is 50% of the gross proceeds from the operation. This represents DPG receiving more than the customary custom farming price.

The total payments from Family Farm are $80,000, with DPG Farms receiving 50%, or $40,000. The total payments received by Trust A are $7,000 and the total payments received by Trust B are $6,000. Thus, if DPG Farms farmed the trust properties on the same 50/50 share, it would receive a total of $46,500. While this figure varied from year to year, in no year would to total exceed $50,000. Is there a problem?

Answer: We concluded that since there was no payment limitation issue, you saw no problem from an FSA standpoint. FSA's concern would have been if the custom farming rates were being used to avoid the payment limitation. In this case, it could not have been.

Please confirm that my understanding of the above matters is correct. It will be real interesting to see how the "crop share" issue is handled. As we discussed, unless there is some continuity between counties, we are going to have different share arrangements being approved in some counties (and states) and being disallowed in other counties in the same state. That happened so often, as you recall, in the early days before many of the generic words were given more precise definitions. I hope that the COCs let landlords and tenants agree assuming no overreaching, and they all know where overreaching is likely to occur.

June 5, 1996
Page 3

Thank you again for your usual good advise.

Very truly yours,

RAMSAY, BRIDGFORTH, HARRELSON
STARLING

William C. Bridgforth

KAMSAY BRIDGFORTH LAW

United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Arkansas State FSA Office
Room 5416,700 W. Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3225
(501) 324-5220, Fax (501) 324-5895

June 5, 1996

William C. Bridgforth
P. O. Box 8509
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71611-8509

Dear Mr. Bill Bridgforth,

This is in response to your letter (attached) concerning your visit with [ ] to discuss payment eligibility rules.

Your understanding of the matter addressed is correct, of course, any unrevealed circumstances could result in more restrictive rulings.

[ ]

RAMSAY, BRIDGFORTH, HARRELSON AND STARLING
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
(FOUNDED AS COLEMAN & GANTT IN 1911)

W. F. COLEMAN (1870-1936)
H. L. GANTT, JR. (1879-1973)
M. J. STARLING, JR. (1941-1990)
WILLIAM C. BRIDGFORTH
R. DANIEL HARRELSON, P.A.
SPENCER F. ROBINSON
PHILLIP A. RALEY
T. PATRICK A. BURROW
(MAR ADMITTED IN TENNESSEE)

11TH FLOOR SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL BUILDING
501 MAIN STREET
P. O. BOX 8509
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS 71611-8509

TELEPHONE 501-535-0000
FAX 501-535-0544

ROSALIND K. MOUSER
WILLIAM H. BRIDGFORTH
DAVID A. BRIDGFORTH
WM. JAY HARRELSON
JOHN T. STARLING

LOUIS L. RAMSAY*
SENIOR COUNSEL

June 20, 1996

VIA FAX 202/720-4726

[ ]
United States Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 2415
Washington, D. C. 20013-2415

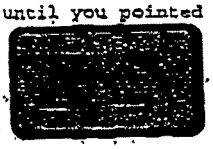
Dear[ ]

Since our conversation earlier this week concerning the response to my letter to Parks of June 5, 1996, I have gotten some more facts that I believe are highly significant. All I had focused upon earlier was the potential payment limitation issue (which we both agreed is not a problem), and I had not focused on the "at risk" issue which as you point out must be addressed.

I have been told that all of the inputs are separately invoiced to the landowner, including seed, fertilizer, and herbicides, and the landowner is liable for all of these expenses. In addition, the landowner is liable for all expenses of the custom farmer, including fuel, oil, repairs, etc., if the agreed maximum payment of 50% of the gross proceeds from the farm is insufficient to cover them. Therefore, the landowner is "at risk" for all of the expenses I have described.

In addition, the parties tell me that while the annual payment in most years does exceed the amount for which such services could be obtained, that it has always been within the range (albeit on the high end of the range usually) described by the extension service in the state where this operation takes place.

Please review this additional information and give me a call. I should have gotten all of the facts before I wrote Parks, but I failed to see this issue until you pointed it out to me.



June 20, 1996
Page 2

On the payment limitation issue, the total amount of payments the producer would have received from all sources if all of the trust lands had been share rented to him (rather than custom farmed by him) in each of the years from 1989 through 1995 would have been, in each year, less than:
1989 - $39,750; 1990 - $31,500; 1991 - $28,000; 1992 - $49,000; 1993 - $16,000; 1994 - $32,500; 1995 - $13,750. Clearly no payment limitation issue.

Very truly yours,

RAMSAY, BRIDGFORTH, HARRELSON
STARLING

William C. Bridgforth

USDA

nited States
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rm Service
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00 Independence
e, SW
op 0501
ashington, DC
250-0501

DATE: September 19, 2001

TO: Gregory S. Seybold
Assistant Inspector General
for Investigations

FROM: James R. Little
Acting Administrator

James R. Little

SUBJECT: Tom Dorr, Marcus, IA - - Payment Limitation Concerns (PS-301-0616)
Your Memorandum dated September 5

Based on your memorandum, I dispatched an independent review team to Iowa the week of September 10. After meeting with members of your staff and examining the available documentation, the review team has reported their findings and recommendations. Enclosed is a copy of team's report of findings and recommendations. Accordingly, I have instructed the State Executive Director in Iowa to take the actions recommended by the team.

Given the time requirements associated with these types of reviews, I am unable to provide an approximate date when the results of these reviews can be provided.

Attachment

USDA

nited States
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griculture

arm and Foreign
gricultural
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arm Service
gency

400 Independence
ve. SW
Mail Stop 0540
Washington, DC
20250-0540

Date: September 19, 2001

To: James Little, Acting Administrator

Through: Thomas M. McCann,
Director, Operations Review and Analysis Staff

From: [redacted]

Subject: Tom Dorr, Marcus, IA - - Payment Limitation Concerns (PS-301-0616)
Office of Inspector General (OIG) Memorandum dated September 5, 2001

Background

Based on the OIG memorandum and discussions with OIG personnel, an independent review team was dispatched to the Iowa State FSA office on September 10, 2001, to review the information obtained by OIG, address OIG concerns, and to recommend what actions, if any, should be taken by FSA on this matter. The team consisted of [redacted].

Upon arrival at the Iowa State FSA Office we met with the two OIG investigators who were most familiar with the case. They shared their concerns with us and provided us with all documentation they had obtained. Because of the pending OIG investigation, we were not provided copies of any statements taken from FSA employees, but were allowed to read those statements.

The Cherokee County farm records associated with Tom Dorr previously requested by OIG were in the possession of the Iowa State FSA Office. After a complete review of those records we visited the Cherokee County Office to review additional records.

OIG Concerns

The limited inquiry by OIG in this matter generated several concerns. The following table outlines each of OIG's concerns and our findings related to those concerns.

Administrator, FSA

OIG Concern		
1	A copy of the initial COC determination letter sent to [ ] Irrevocable Family Trust which resulted from End-of-Year review of the trust conducted in 1996 was not available.	
	Our Findings	We were unable to obtain any additional information concerning the whereabouts of a copy of the determination letter.
2	The End-of-Year review team recommendations, including exhibits and other worksheets, associated with the 1996 End-of-Year review of the trust were not available.	
	Our Findings	We were unable to obtain any additional information concerning the End-of-Year review team's workpapers. The files contained documentation provided by the trust, but the team's worksheets were not found.
3	No evidence that an End-of-Year review was ever completed for Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. There was evidence an End-of-Year review was initiated based on a copy of a notification letter dated May 8, 1996, but no Pine Grove Farms documents were available.	
	Our Findings	A letter dated June 1, 1996, from Pine Grove Farms requesting a 30-day extension to provide requested documents confirms an End-of-Year review had been initiated. COC reviewed the request for extension at the June 6, 1996, COC meeting and approved the request. A letter addressed to Tom Dorr, dated June 7, 1996, informed Tom Dorr of the approved extension. There was no evidence that the requested documentation was provided nor was there any evidence to show why the review took place.
4	Corn sold by [ ] Irrevocable Family Trust was being marketed through Dorr Corporations.	
	Our Findings	We were not able to shed any light on this concern. It appeared to us that all operations associated with Tom Dorr were operated and managed by Tom Dorr or those entities control by Tom Dorr.
5	Whether all farming expenses paid to Dorr's Pine Grove Farms Co. from other Dorr related entities were legitimate reimbursements.	
	Our Findings	We were not able to shed any light on this concern. The same records available to OIG were available to us and no additional records were obtained.
6	"Rumored" that Dorr talked to someone in the State Office.	
	Our Findings	We were not able to confirm this rumor.

Administrator, FSA

OIG Concern		
7	It was "thought" that OIG was called on this matter in 1996.	
	Our Findings	[ ] Iowa State FSA Office, drafted a letter to OIG, but it was never sent. [ ] does not remember exactly why it was not sent. [ ] believes that [ ] initial reaction to certain evidence required OIG notification, but later decided it was not warranted.
8	The Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust was set up the exact same way as the [ ] Irrevocable Family Trust was in 1996 and no End-of-Year was conducted.	
	Our Findings	Based on the information available for our review, it appeared that the End-of-Year review of Dorr's Pine Grove Farms Co. was initiated to determine whether problems found during the End-of-Year review on the trust were also related to other entities associated with Tom Dorr's farming interests.
9	There are an estimated 18 participating entities or individuals associated to Tom Dorr in which there may be a problem.	
	Our Findings	We only identified 12 different entities or individuals currently active associated with Tom Dorr.
10	The need for a further, in-depth review of Mr. Dorr's program participation by an independent review team.	
	Our Findings	With Mr. Dorr's possible installation as Under Secretary for Rural Development, USDA, and the associated confirmation hearings scheduled to begin on September 25, 2001, there is no possible way an in-depth review could be completed by September 25, 2001.

Related Concerns

Based on the review of the documents relating to payment limitation determinations for the entities and individuals associated with Tom Dorr, it is our opinion that the information provided by these entities and individuals was inadequate for the COC to make an informed determination and the determinations already made by the COC cannot be supported with the documentation on file.

Based on our concerns with the documentation on file at the State Office, we visited the County Office to review additional documentation, including documentation for reconstitutions relating to farms associated with Tom Dorr . We found the documentation inadequate to support the determinations made on such reconstitutions. We also reviewed the powers-of-attorney on file appointing Tom Dorr attorney-in-fact for several of the entities and individuals associated with Tom Dorr. Some of these powers-of-attorney forms were not completed in accordance with FSA procedure.

Administrator, FSA

Recommendations

Based on the our review of the documents available to us, we could not made any determination of wrong doing by Tom Dorr or any of the other entities or individuals associated with him. However, we suggest the following actions to ensure this matter is properly closed.

1. An End-of-Year review be conducted on Dorr's Pine Grove Farms Co. for the year 1995 and 1994. Based on the findings of the review team, additional End-of-Year reviews may be required for other entities or individuals associated to Tom Dorr for those years. We believe a review team made up of Iowa FSA employees is adequate to conduct the End-of-Year review, provided the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs review the team's recommendations before issuing the recommendations to the COC for final determination.

2. An End-of-Year review be conducted on all entities and individuals associated with Tom Dorr for year 2000.

3. A County Operations Review be conducted in Cherokee County, Iowa, that covers payment limitation and reconstitution operations. Based on the findings, a determination to expand the review to AMTA and Price Support operations may be needed.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Cherokee County FSA Office
Cherokee, IA 51012

County Committee Meeting

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: June 20, 1996
Place: Cherokee County Farm Service Agency

Persons present:

Mick Theisen, Chairman
Chuck Lundquist, Vice-Chairman
Richard Tolzin, Member
Michael W. Houston, CED

1. ADMINISTRATION

A. Chairman Mick Theisen called COC meeting to order.

B. COC read and approved minutes of June 6, 1996.

C. COC reviewed and approved T & A's and SF-71's for COC & CED.

D. COC discussed County Office Awards.

E. COC discussed E.O.Y.R progress for M.G. Dorr Trust.

CONSERVATION

A. COC reviewed and approved the following reports and took the appropriate action:

1. "ACP-245's with Expiration Date Exceeded" 2 ACP (rev 2) paragraphs 141 thru 143.

2. "ACP-245's- Neither Approved Nor Disapproved" 1 ACP (rev 3) paragraphs 419 thru 422.

3. "Applications Pending Approval".

4. "Needs Determination Not Yet Made".

B. CRP

1. COC approved Keith Walker Contract #22 Farm # 991 for 1 year extension.

2. COC reviewed and approved revision Kendall Grauer Contract # 14C, 63B & 80A Farm # 170 due to death of Owner.

3. COC reviewed and approved haying and grazing for the following farms:

a. Kendall Grauer- Contract #14C, 63B, 80A, Farm # 170
b. Greg Foreman Est. Contract # 68A, 108A, Farm # 1174
c. Richard Knapp- Contract #11S, Farm # 2472
d. Marvin Brown- Contract # 6A, Farm # 1451
e. Tom Earl Flanigan Contract # S4, Farm # 1240
f. Robin Frank Contract # 85E, Farm # 1249

C. ACP

1. COC tentatively approved Trapp Farms Inc. SL-4 for $3500 Farm # 2889.

2. COC reduced Irvin Woltman excess cost/share allocation as per instruction June 7, 1996 from State Office, Farm # 1126 SL-9.

3. PRODUCTION FLEXIBILITY

A. COC reviewed and assigned the following yields with 3 similar farms:

Farm #	Crop	Similar Farms	Assigned Yield
338	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
377	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
1448	Barley	1244	60
2565	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
2595	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
2893	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
2952	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
2975	Oats	210,702,959	81
3237	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
3453	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36

4. COMPLIANCE

A. COC reviewed and approved late filed certifications for Farm # 403, Farm # 3165, and Farm # 941.

5. A. Next meeting date is July 11, 1996.

B. No further business.

C. COC adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Michael W. Houston
County Executive Director

Michael F. Theisen
County Committee
Chairperson

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Cherokee County FSA Office
Cherokee, IA 51012

County Committee Meeting

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: August 29, 1996
Place: Cherokee County Farm Service Agency

Persons present:

Mick Theisen, Chairman
Chuck Lundquist, Vice-Chairman
Richard Tolzin, Member
Michael W. Houston, CED

1. ADMINISTRATION

A. Chairman Mick Theisen called COC meeting to order.

B. COC read and approved minutes of August 12, 1996.

C. COC reviewed and approved T & A's and SF-71's for COC & CED.

D. COC reviewed and completed Land Value Survey FSA-326 accordin to AFIDA-14. See Exhibit 1.

E. COC reviewed LD-9 and LD-10 Sheep Referendum.

F. COC reviewed PF-33 Establishing Receivables for 1995 Deficiency Overpayments- Cherokee has no wheat or oat deficiency overpayments.

G. COC reviewed possible buyout procedure and latest FAX on Reduction in Force.

H. COC reviewed FI-36.

I. COC reviewed Political Activity under the Hatch-Act.

2. CONSERVATION

A. COC reviewed and approved the following reports and took the appropriate action:

1. "ACP-245's with Expiration Date Exceeded" 2 ACP (rev 2) paragraphs 141 thru 143.

2. "ACP-245's- Neither Approved Nor Disapproved" 1 ACP (rev 3) paragraphs 419 thru 422.

3. "Applications Pending Approval".

4. "Needs Determination Not Yet Made".

B. ANA- COC reviewed and approved request for extension on WP3, Ed Smith Farm # 3232 to December 31, 1996. Producer is waiting for aluminum drop design from NRCS.

C. CRP

1. COC reviewed and approved revision for early out requests for the following:

a. Marvin Brown Farm # 1451 Contract # 6A 89.3 acres
b. Lowell Allen Farm # 607 Contract # 51C

2. COC reviewed and approved a request to not prorate from Stewart Gustafson, Farm # 895 Contract # 10B.

3. COC reviewed soil rental rates and determined No change and negative report should be submitted.

D. COC approved a request for cancellation of WP3 Farm # 3451, previously approved by NRCS.

E. ACP-EAN (Fund Code 60)

1. COC reviewed and approved the following ACP-EAN:

a. Douglas Ebel	Farm # 3481	SL1	$ 763.00
b. Wayne Prunty	Farm # 3217	SL1	$ 396.00
c. Mary K Williams	Farm # 1317	SL4	$ 866.00

3. PRODUCTION FLEXIBILITY

A. COC reviewed and approved County Committee reports on reconstitutions CED had previously approved.

4. EOYR

A. COC discussed progress on End of Year Review on M.G. Darr Irr. Family Trust.

5. A. Next meeting date is September 12, 1996.

B. No further business.

C. COC adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

County Executive Director

County Committee Chairperson 10-3-96

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Cherokee County FSA Office
Cherokee, IA 51012

County Committee Meeting

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: November 14, 1996
Place: Cherokee County Farm Service Agency

Persons present:

Mick Theisen, Chairman
Chuck Lundquist, Vice-Chairman
Richard Tolzin, Member
Michael W. Houston, CED

1. ADMINISTRATION

A. Chairman Mick Theisen called meeting to order.

B. COC read and approved minutes of October 31, 1996.

C. COC reviewed and approved T & A's and SF-71's for COC & CED.

D. COC reviewed election and slate of Nominees. Ballots will be in the mail on November 15, 1996.

E. COC adjourned to Executive Session.

2. CONSERVATION

A. COC reviewed and approved the following reports and took the appropriate action:

1. "ACP-245's with Expiration Date Exceeded" 2 ACP (rev 2) paragraphs 141 thru 143.

2. "ACP-245's- Neither Approved Nor Disapproved" 1 ACP (rev 3) paragraphs 419 thru 422.

3. "Applications Pending Approval".

4. "Needs Determination Not Yet Made".

B. COC reviewed and approved the following ECP:

1. Farm # 1360 EC4 $640
2. Farm # 2278 EC4 $4180
3. Farm # 2752 EC4 $3434

C. ANA

1. COC approved a request to change from broadbase terrace to grass back slope for Farm # 2889.

3. RISK MANAGEMENT

A. NAP- COC were informed that after the hay survey was compiled; Cherokee has less than a 35% loss; and therefore is ineligible.

4. EOYR

A. COC reviewed EOYR committees findings on M.G. Dorr Irr. Fami Trust. COC concurred; M.G. Dorr Irr. Family Trust is in violation of shares for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995. Tom Dorr, Trustee will be invited to meet with COC on December 5 1996.

5. PRICE SUPPORT

A. COC reviewed Temporary Field allowance of 24 days.

6. COMPLIANCE

A. Temporary Field Employee, Brent Lawrey measured the farms picked for spot check that the aerial slides were missing.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. COC discussed Ag Show- Scott Bleggi; FAS has agreed to speak on March 12, 1997.

B. Next meeting date is December 5, 1996

C. No further business.

D. COC adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

County Executive Director

County Committee Chairperson

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Cherokee County FSA Office
Cherokee, IA 51012

County Committee Meeting

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: December 5, 1996
Place: Cherokee County Farm Service Agency

Persons present:

Mick Theisen, Chairman
Chuck Lundquist, Vice-Chairman
Richard Tolzin, Member
Michael W. Houston, CED

1. ADMINISTRATION

A. Chairman Mick Theisen called meeting to order.

B. COC read and approved minutes of November 14, 1996.

C. COC reviewed and approved T & A's and SF-71's for COC & CED.

D. COC opened and counted Ballots. Richard Tolzin refrained from participating since he was up for reelection. CED and P.A. Robbie Klaschen assisted in the election.
After the election was completed COC determined Richard Tolzin was reelected to COC.

2. CONSERVATION

A. COC reviewed and approved the following reports and took the appropriate action:

1. "ACP-245's with Expiration Date Exceeded" 2 ACP (rev 2) paragraphs 141 thru 143.

2. "ACP-245's- Neither Approved Nor Disapproved" 1 ACP (rev 3) paragraphs 419 thru 422.

3. "Applications Pending Approval".

4. "Needs Determination Not Yet Made".

B. COC met wi

C. COC reviewe nent from Farm # 3387.
COC approve

D. EQUIP meeti lon office on Dec. 10th
at 1:30 p.m.

3. EOYR

A. COC met with Tom Dorr at 10:00 a.m. concerning M.G. Dorr Irr. Family Trust. COC had review E.O.Y.R. committees recommenda earlier. COC were concerned about relaying another committe decision without having the knowledge of how they based thei decision. COC explained to Mr. Dorr that they were requesti that the EOYR committee explain to the COC and Mr. Dorr thei findings.

4. COMMON PROGRAMS

A. COC reviewed and approved Reconstitutions A70001 thru A70009.

B. COC reviewed and approved the following Transfers:

1. Farm # 5507 Plymouth County to Cherokee Co. 160 acres
2. Farm # 3489 Cherokee County to Plymouth Co. 320 acres

5. PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY CONTRACTS

A. COC reviewed and approved change of shares between Kenneth Stellish and Dennis Stellish. Shares were 50/50 and now are 100% to Kenneth. Dennis has been on a long vacation and no one has seen him for months. According to knowledge of COC, Dennis does take extended vacations, sometimes up to two years. COC approved change in shares.

6. WOOL

A. COC were informed the last Sheep referendum is being audited by A.M.S.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Next meeting date is December 19, 1996

B. No further business.

C. COC adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Michael W. Houston
County Executive Director

Michael F. Nelson
County Committee
Chairperson

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Cherokee County FSA Office
Cherokee, IA 51012

County Committee Meeting

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: December 19, 1996
Place: Cherokee County Farm Service Agency

Persons present:

Mick Theisen, Chairman
Chuck Lundquist, Vice-Chairman
Richard Tolzin, Member
Michael W. Houston, CED
Gary Venneman, District Director

1. ADMINISTRATION

A. Chairman Mick Theisen called meeting to order.

B. COC read and approved minutes of December 5, 1996.

C. COC reviewed and approved T & A's and SF-71's for COC & CED.

D. COC welcomed District Director Gary Venneman. Gary introduced himself and gave the COC some of his background.

E. COC discussed the reduction in force briefly.

2. AG CREDIT

A. COC adjourned to executive session.

3. CONSERVATION

A. COC reviewed and approved the following reports and took the appropriate action:

1. "ACP-245's with Expiration Date Exceeded" 2 ACP (rev 2) paragraphs 141 thru 143.

2. "ACP-245's- Neither Approved Nor Disapproved" 1 ACP (rev 3) paragraphs 419 thru 422.

3. "Applications Pending Approval".

4. "Needs Determination Not Yet Made".

B. COC reviewed an approved the following ECP, ACP, an EQIP extension requests.

1. Brad Coburn, Farm # 2752 EC4, terrace repair
2. D. James DeWitt, Farm #2395, EC4, terrace repair
3. Harry Heilman, Farm # 541, EC4, terrace repair
4. Mary K. Williams, Farm # 1317, EC4, terrace repair
5. Kevin Parcel, Farm # 3213 SL4, terrace
6. Chuck Wiemold, Farm # 3081, WP3, waterway
7. Mary K. Williams, Farm # 1317, SL4, terrace
8. Larry Trapp, Farm # 2889, SL4, terrace
9. Hazel Springer, Farm # 1127, WP3, waterway
10. Tyrone Artz, Farm # 3451, SL4, terrace
11. Donald Johannsen, Farm # 1516, terrace
12. Irv Woltman, Farm # 1126, SL4, terrace

C. COC reviewed and discussed December 10, 1996 EQIP meeting. January 21, 1997, Public EQIP meeting at Cherokee Community Center.

D. COC reviewed and approved additional extent for Farm # 2555.

E. CRP

1. COC [illegible]P Signups for the following far

   a. 8 acres
   b.

2. COC [illegible]e until January or Feb

4. EOYR

A. COC reviewed and discussed M.G. Dorrs Irr. Family Trust with District Director, Gary Vennemen. COC then met with Kevin Taylor as member of the EOYR committee.
COC reviewed the recommendations of the EOYR committee and determined to accept their recommendations and M.G. Dorr Irr Family Trust was in violation of shares. CED is to inform Trustee, Tom Dorr; that the EOYR would not meet with him to explain their findings. Therefore the COC wanted to make their decision and give Mr. Dorr his appeal rights so all parties could proceed

5. COMMON PROGRAMS

A. COC reviewed and approved Reconstitutions A70019 thru A70030.

B. COC reviewed in Transfer from Woodbury County Farm # 5Q95 to Cherokee Co. Farm # 3575 110 acres.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Next meeting date is January 9, 1997.

C. No further business.

D. COC adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Michael W. Hunter
County Executive Director

Michael G. Theisen
County Committee
Chairperson

/A USDA-ASCS Prepared: 8-29-96
:ROKEE ANNUAL JRVEY OF COUNTY FARMLAND \ UES AS OF: 8-29-96
port ID: OBA402-R001 PAGE: 1

ate Code: 19 County Code: 035 February 1, 1996

FARMLAND AND MARKET VALUES (Per Acre)	LOW	AVERAGE	HIGH	PCT.
1. Irrigated Cropland	0	0	0	0%
2. Nonirrigated Cropland	2,000	2,660	3,350	100%
3. Pasture or Grazing Land	700	800	900	100%
4. Woodland on Farms	700	800	900	100%

5. Influence of Nonagricultural Value: NONE

6. Comments:
ECENT LAND SALES OR LACK OF LAND FOR SALE HAS DRIVEN CASH RENT EXTREMELY HIGH
GH CASH GRAIN PRICES HAS EFFECTED THE ABOVE SITUATION

7. Percent of cropland rented 60%
8. Of the above rented cropland 80% is cash rented,
20% is share rented,
0% is rented thru other arrangements.

9. Percent of grazing land rented 5%
10. Of the above rented grazing land 95% is cash rented,
5% is AUM rented,
0% is rented thru other arrangements.

TYPICAL CASH RENT (per acre)	CASH RENT	AVERAGE EQUIVALENT CASH RENT
11. Irrigated Cropland	0	0
12. Nonirrigated Cropland	125	0
13. Pasture or Grazing Land	30	0

14. Comments:

REPORT PREPARATION

15. Sources consulted in the preparation of this report were:
Personal knowledge of local land market
County Office Committee
Local real estate professional
Last years report

16. Comments:

17. Time spent in completion of the survey, in minutes: 60

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Cherokee County FSA Office
Cherokee, IA 51012

County Committee Meeting

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: June 20, 1996
Place: Cherokee County Farm Service Agency

Persons present:

Mick Theisen, Chairman
Chuck Lundquist, Vice-Chairman
Richard Tolzin, Member
Michael W. Houston, CED

1. ADMINISTRATION

A. Chairman Mick Theisen called COC meeting to order.

B. COC read and approved minutes of June 6, 1996.

C. COC reviewed and approved T & A's and SF-71's for COC & CED.

D. COC discussed County Office Awards.

E. COC discussed E.O.Y.R progress for M.G. Dorr Trust.

CONSERVATION

A. COC reviewed and approved the following reports and took the appropriate action:

1. "ACP-245's with Expiration Date Exceeded" 2 ACP (rev 2) paragraphs 141 thru 143.

2. "ACP-245's- Neither Approved Nor Disapproved" 1 ACP (rev 3) paragraphs 419 thru 422.

3. "Applications Pending Approval".

4. "Needs Determination Not Yet Made".

B. CRP

1. COC approved Keith Walker Contract #22 Farm # 991 for 1 year extension.

2. COC reviewed and approved revision Kendall Grauer Contract # 14C, 63B & 80A Farm # 170 due to death of Owner.

3. COC reviewed and approved haying and grazing for the following farms:

a. Kendall Grauer- Contract #14C, 63B, 80A, Farm # 170
b. Greg Foresman Est. Contract # 68A, 108A, Farm # 1174
c. Richard Knapp- Contract #11S, Farm # 2472
d. Marvin Brown- Contract # 6A, Farm # 1451
e. Tom Earl Flanigan Contract # S4, Farm # 1240
f. Robin Frank Contract # 8SE, Farm # 1249

C. ACP

1. COC tentatively approved Trapp Farms Inc. SL-4 for $3500 Farm # 2889.

2. COC reduced Irvin Woltman excess cost/share allocation as per instruction June 7, 1996 from State Office, Farm # 1126 SL-9.

3. PRODUCTION FLEXIBILITY

A. COC reviewed and assigned the following yields with 3 similar farms:

Farm #	Crop	Similar Farms	Assigned Yield
338	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
377	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
1448	Barley	1244	60
2565	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
2595	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
2893	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
2952	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
2975	Oats	210,702,959	81
3237	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36
3453	Wheat	3105,955,3146	36

4. COMPLIANCE

A. COC reviewed and approved late filed certifications for Farm # 403, Farm # 3165, and Farm # 941.

5. A. Next meeting date is July 11, 1996.

B. No further business.

C. COC adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Michael W. Houston
County Executive Director

Michael F. Theisen
County Committee
Chairperson

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Cherokee County FSA Office
Cherokee, IA 51012

County Committee Meeting

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: August 29, 1996
Place: Cherokee County Farm Service Agency

Persons present:

Mick Theisen, Chairman
Chuck Lundquist, Vice-Chairman
Richard Toizin, Member
Michael W. Houston, CED

1. ADMINISTRATION

A. Chairman Mick Theisen called COC meeting to order.

B. COC read and approved minutes of August 12, 1996.

C. COC reviewed and approved T & A's and SF-71's for COC & CED.

D. COC reviewed and completed Land Value Survey FSA-326 according to ARIDA-14. See Exhibit 1.

E. COC reviewed LD-9 and LD-10 Sheep Referendum.

F. COC reviewed PF-33 Establishing Receivables for 1995 Deficiency Overpayments- Cherokee has no wheat or oat deficiency overpayments.

G. COC reviewed possible buyout procedure and latest FAX on Reduction in Force.

H. COC reviewed FI-36.

I. COC reviewed Political Activity under the Hatch-Act.

2. CONSERVATION

A. COC reviewed and approved the following reports and took the appropriate action:

1. "ACP-245's with Expiration Date Exceeded" 2 ACP (rev 2) paragraphs 141 thru 143.

2. "ACP-245's- Neither Approved Nor Disapproved" 1 ACP (rev 3) paragraphs 419 thru 422.

3. "Applications Pending Approval".

4. "Needs Determination Not Yet Made".

B. ANA- COC reviewed and approved request for extension on WP3, Ed Smith Farm # 3232 to December 31, 1996. Producer is waiting for aluminum drop design from NRCS.

C. CRP

1. COC reviewed and approved revision for early out requests for the following:

a. Marvin Brown Farm # 1451 Contract # 6A 89.3 acres
b. Lowell Allen Farm # 607 Contract # 51C

2. COC reviewed and approved a request to not prorate from Stewart Gustafson, Farm # 895 Contract # 10B.

3. COC reviewed soil rental rates and determined No change and negative report should be submitted.

D. COC approved a request for cancellation of WP3 Farm # 3451, previously approved by NRCS.

E. ACP-EAN (Fund Code 60)

1. COC reviewed and approved the following ACP-EAN:

a. Douglas Ebel	Farm # 3481	SL1	$ 763.00
b. Wayne Prunty	Farm # 3217	SL1	$ 396.00
c. Mary K Williams	Farm # 1317	SL4	$ 866.00

3. PRODUCTION FLEXIBILITY

A. COC reviewed and approved County Committee reports on reconstitutions CED had previously approved.

4. EOYR

A. COC discussed progress on End of Year Review on M.G. Darr Irr. Family Trust.

5. A. Next meeting date is September 12, 1996.

B. No further business.

C. COC adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

County Executive Director

County Committee Chairperson 10-3-96

Exhibit 1

VA USDA-ASCS Prepared: 8-29-96
EROKEE ANNUAL JRVEY OF COUNTY FARMLAND V UES AS OF: 8-29-96
port ID: OSA402-R001 PAGE: 1

ate Code: 19 County Code: 035 February 1, 1996

FARMLAND AND MARKET VALUES (Per Acre)	LOW	AVERAGE	HIGH	PCT.
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4. Woodland on Farms	700	800	900	100%

5. Influence of Nonagricultural Value: NONE

6. Comments:
ECENT LAND SALES OR LACK OF LAND FOR SALE HAS DRIVEN CASH RENT EXTREMELY HIGH
GH CASH GRAIN PRICES HAS EFFECTED THE ABOVE SITUATION

7. Percent of cropland rented 60%
8. Of the above rented cropland 80% is cash rented,
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11. Irrigated Cropland	0	0
12. Nonirrigated Cropland	125	0
13. Pasture or Grazing Land	30	0

14. Comments:

REPORT PREPARATION

15. Sources consulted in the preparation of this report were:
Personal knowledge of local land market
County Office Committee
Local real estate professional
Last years report

16. Comments:

17. Time spent in completion of the survey, in minutes: 80

TEL NO: 5152846294

FILED 9/6/2002 3:14:57 PM, USDC, Southern District of Iowa

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
CENTRAL DIVISION

IOWA CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	CIVIL NO. 4-02-CV-10114
vs.	)	ORDER
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,	)	
Defendant.	)	

In compliance with this Court's Order of August 13, 2002, defendant has submitted the unredacted audio tape and letter which are being sought by plaintiff in their FOIA request. The Court has now conducted an in camera inspection and finds that both the audio tape and the letter should be produced to plaintiff. The letter should be produced in an unredacted form. The Court approves the redaction of the brief reference in the audio tape that refers to Dorr's intra-familial relationships.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2002.

RONALD E. LONGSTAFF, Chief Judge
United States District Court

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

April 27, 2005

Statement of Senator Thad Cochran

Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry

April 27, 2005

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing. I am pleased to welcome Mr. Tom Dorr to the Committee today and congratulate him on his nomination to serve as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven to be a dependable and resourceful leader at the Department and his expertise in agriculture has proven to be a valuable asset during his service over the past four years at the Department of Agriculture.

The Rural Development Agency plays an important role in helping rural communities improve economic opportunities for their residents.

The Rural Development Agency also assists rural communities in gaining access to communication and broadband technologies that provide valuable educational and economic benefits. I look forward to working with Mr. Dorr on the programs that are administered by the Rural Development Agency.

Opening Statement of Senator Talent
Thomas Dorr
Under Secretary for Rural Development
April 27, 2005

Mr. Chairman, Thank you for holding this hearing and thank you to our witness. Rural Development at USDA provides essential services to communities in Missouri.

I support your nomination to be Under Secretary for Rural Development and I look forward to working with you in your new capacity.

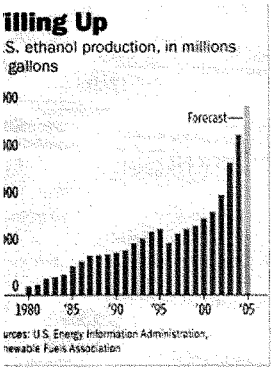
I have one question for our witness today: Just a few weeks ago, the Wall Street Journal ran an article that clearly demonstrated the impact of ethanol and biodiesel on rural America. Mr. Dorr, you know this. It has been a tremendous economic boon to small communities in Missouri and across the country.

The Bioenergy Program was established in the 2002 farm bill. This program had a tremendous impact on the growth and expansion of renewable fuels by providing hundreds of millions of dollars to producers for increasing ethanol and biodiesel production.

The FY 2005 appropriations bill approved Program funding of $100 million. The President's 2006 budget proposes to continue to limit the CCC bioenergy incentive program, to $60 million instead of $150 million

provided by the Farm Bill. I'm sure it was an effort to reduce the overall cost of the farm bill, but funding for bioenergy in FY07 was not authorized.

Once confirmed, I would like to work with you on efforts to extend and continue to fund this important program. While the program is not administered through your mission area, renewable fuels are vastly important to rural America.



Home Grown

In Midwest Investment Boom, Corn-to-Fuel Plants Multiply

Betting on Ethanol, Farm Towns Gain Jobs and New Hope, But They Risk Overdoing It

Road Show in the Local Gym

By SCOTT KILMAN
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
March 9, 2005; Page A1

NEVADA, Iowa -- Truck driver Dean Rogers made the biggest investment of his life last year. He scraped together $25,000 for a stake in a plant to turn corn into a gasoline substitute called ethanol.

"It's a big chunk of change," said the 61-year-old Mr. Rogers, who has spent a quarter-century driving from farm to farm delivering fuel. Tapping a bandaged finger on his stenciled work shirt, he added, "I'm hoping it will be a big part of my nest egg."

Mr. Rogers is among thousands of farmers, teachers, storeowners, retirees and others who have raided their savings and borrowed money to join the biggest investment movement in rural America in decades. Driven in part by hopes of reviving weak local economies, the investors, together with rural lenders, are pouring billions of dollars into ethanol plants.

Ethanol -- which is distilled from corn essentially the way moonshine is -- is blended into gasoline, both stretching the fuel's supply and making it burn cleaner. So far, the business is booming. With the price of gasoline up, so is ethanol's, 40% in two years. The Chicago Board of Trade is about to launch a futures contract in ethanol. Midwestern plants built by farmers' co-ops and private companies, at a cost of $50 million to $125 million each, now are showering their hometown investors with benefits.

In Oakley, Kan., population 2,173, a plant called Western Plains Energy has created 30 jobs. Open just over a year, it has already paid its investors $2 million in dividends. The town's lumberyard has reopened, a new bank has come in, the truck stop is remodeling and people are fixing up homes.

Rushing to get aboard, other communities are offering tax deferrals, building roads to plant sites and floating bond issues for construction. Banks eager to support their communities are offering loans to buy stock, sometimes not requiring the investors to put up any money of their own. The result is that 25 new ethanol plants are under construction, adding to an existing 83, a third of

which are themselves less than three years old. In Minnesota, a single builder has 42 more new plants on the drawing board.

"I've never seen people so excited," says LaVon Schiltz, director of the economic-development council in the Iowa town of Nevada. Jeff Broin, who builds ethanol plants from Sioux Falls, S.D., calls it "a bit like a gold rush."

But will it last? Ethanol's price is closely tied to that of gasoline and thus to the price of crude oil -- currently high, but volatile and hard to predict. Ethanol plants have little pricing power in case the cost of their raw material, corn, goes up. Because ethanol usually costs more to make than gasoline, its usage depends heavily on federal incentives and clean-air legislation -- which could change. An earlier ethanol boom, in the 1980s, largely fizzled when oil prices fell.

Above all, the frenzy of plant building could outstrip demand, creating a glut that would leave some farmers and townspeople with too little income to pay investment debts. At the current rate of construction, by year-end the U.S. will have the capacity to turn out four billion gallons of ethanol annually. Energy Department economists don't see the need for that much ethanol for another five years.

"Production is growing faster than demand," says Martin Andreas, a senior adviser at Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. Tellingly, the commodity giant, which is the biggest ethanol producer of all, has no plans to add capacity. Credit-rating agency Standard & Poor's calls the industry "highly speculative."

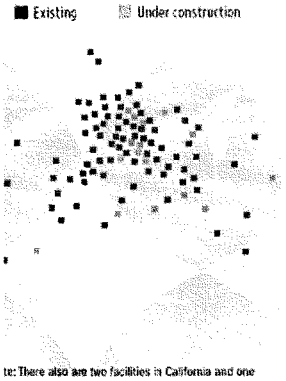
The idea of running cars partly on corn-derived alcohol has been a dream in the rural Midwest for three decades. The advantages include new markets for corn, reduced dependence on foreign oil and even environmental gains, since it's a renewable fuel (although raising corn burns energy, too). It's a tempting concept to fading farm communities long squeezed by flat grain prices and ever-rising costs, particularly since new technology makes small ethanol plants affordable. At a time when few Americans want a new oil refinery in their backyards, these rural ethanol plants get an eager welcome.

The plants mix corn and water into a mash, add enzymes that turn starch to sugar, cook the batch and then ferment it with yeast. They leave behind liquid ethanol plus solids called distillers' grains. The operators sell the solids for livestock feed and ship the ethanol off to fuel distributors to be mixed with gasoline.

The resulting blend is higher in oxygen and burns more completely, thus polluting the air less. The U.S. Clean Air Act requires areas with the worst pollution to use clean-burning blends. Some once used fuel with an additive called MTBE that did the same thing, but several states banned it because of groundwater-pollution concerns -- a boost to ethanol. The U.S. also gives gasoline distributors a partial

lidwest's New Crop

ants making fuel from corn proliferate



te: There also are two facilities in California and one Washington.

Source: Renewable Fuels Association, January 2005

tax exemption for adding ethanol, and a law in one state, Minnesota, requires its use. In all, ethanol makes up nearly 3% of U.S. motor fuel.

Wall Street has little to do with this decidedly grass-roots investment boom. Residents crowd into firehouses and gymnasiums for presentations, often by farmers, about plants with names like Tall Corn Ethanol and Amaizing Energy. Some listeners never bought stock before. Prospectuses list how long directors have been married, church affiliations and hobbies. "Enjoys singing in a barbershop quartet," says one.

When a group of farmers here in Nevada (pronounced na-VAY-da) held a meeting about building a plant, the community center filled with a crowd that included Terry Branstad, Iowa's governor from 1983 to 1999. All $38 million of shares in the business, Lincolnway Energy LLC, sold in 53 days. Buyers included a tractor mechanic, a school-bus driver and the ex-governor, who says he invested $25,000.

The businesses aren't publicly traded, but their shares change hands through services that keep track of who wants to sell and who wants to buy. Prices of some shares roughly doubled last year. Some offerings, organized by farmers' co-ops, are open only to active farmers.

Those who invested in the Midwest Grain Processors plant in Lakota, Iowa, population 255, reaped $5 million in dividends last year. That was a 25% return on their two-year-old investment.

"By raising a bulk commodity like corn, this town had been at the lowest end of the value chain. Now we're in the energy business," says banker Jim Bollig at Farmers & Traders Savings Bank in nearby Bancroft, Iowa. He says the bank made loans to about 30 farmers, of up to $40,000 each, to buy ethanol-plant stock.

A little of the new wealth trickled down to Spa Dee Dah in Bancroft, which charges $55 for a men's facial and $45 for ear candling, a wax-removal technique. "Ethanol is great for us," says owner Deb Goche, who launched her spa after the plant opened.

Successes like these are tempting farmers who've just about given up on raising grain in the face of rising export competition from low-cost places like Brazil. The crop subsidies that in some years provide most of farmers' profit also appear threatened. The Bush administration wants to cut some for budget reasons and

has also signaled a willingness to curb subsidies to win a World Trade Organization accord on other matters.

"Buying shares in an ethanol plant has to make more sense than trying to make a living on $1.80 [per bushel] corn," said farmer Brian Wrage as he sipped coffee at a truck stop in Lincoln, Ill. He and a group of other farmers are crisscrossing Illinois seeking investors in a plant to be called Illini Bio-Energy. They hope to sell $33 million of stock in it and borrow $50 million more.

Mr. Wrage, 51, who spends spare time giving out Gideon Bibles outside schools, says he is putting $100,000 in the shares. Of that, $80,000 will come from a loan. He knows he could lose it, and that "would be devastating." But he says farming has accustomed him to taking risks; it costs him $500,000 a year to farm his 1,375 acres, and many things beyond his control can waste his best efforts.

At one of his presentations, 50 farmers filled a golf-course banquet room at Auburn, Ill., on a recent icy night. A banker stood up to say he'd brought forms for people to apply for loans of up to $100,000 to become investors.

The room fell silent as Mr. Wrage laid out the forecast: a 19% return on stockholders' investment in the second year of plant operation, rising to 24% by the fourth year. "This is not a fairy tale," he said. Nobody challenged him.

The forecast came from Christianson & Associates, an accounting firm in Willmar, Minn., that has advised more than 35 investor drives for ethanol plants. It compiled the outlook from data the plant organizers supplied, such as 10-year averages of corn and ethanol prices.

Its forecasts don't account for how the plant-building boom might drive prices and profits down by increasing supply. "We take their price data and put it into our model," says John Christianson, 44, principal of the firm. A one-page disclaimer in the 108-page stock offering says the firm didn't evaluate underlying assumptions. "We aren't going to the level of examining or giving an opinion on the forecast," Mr. Christianson says.

Mr. Wrage says organizers use the forecast "to show farmers why we think it is a good investment.... I honestly, truly believe in the forecast. I see it as a minimum."

Also guiding the Illinois farmers was Jack Porter, a professional ethanol-stock pitchman who books meeting rooms, places ads and prints handouts. A former seed-corn executive, the solidly built 64-year-old from Omaha, Neb., knows his audiences. He tells them homegrown ethanol is good both for their bank accounts and for America, whose oil thirst entangles it with unfriendly nations.

Ron Fagen

Mr. Porter is on retainer for a builder deeply involved in the ethanol boom: Minnesotan Ron Fagen, who sits atop a network of ventures that do everything from building and running plants to working on financing and marketing. A bear of a man with a droopy mustache, Mr. Fagen, 56, operates from an office next to the only stoplight in Yellow Medicine County in southwest Minnesota. At opening ceremonies for new ethanol plants, he often buzzes the scene in his World War II-era P-51 Mustang fighter plane.

Mr. Fagen says he's currently building 12 ethanol plants and planning 42 more, and his business's annual revenue has grown fivefold in four years to $300 million. He admits there's a chance all the expansion could create a glut. But he says he's been hearing that warning "ever since I built my second plant," and it hasn't come true.

Scouts help Mr. Fagen find new places to build. Albert City, Iowa, population 709, has long been shrinking. Despite an upbeat sign on the road into town -- "Visit Albert City: How Swede it is" -- the town's farm-equipment dealer went out of business last year and the high school closed. Crops grow in an industrial park that didn't attract a single tenant.

But to a Fagen scout, Albert City had the essential elements for an ethanol plant: productive corn farms all around, a tall grain elevator, a railroad line and a natural-gas line for energy. Now Mr. Fagen is about to start building a $125 million investor-owned plant that will bring in 45 jobs paying an average of $40,000 a year, higher than the town average. Officials hope young families will move in and build what would be the first new houses in town in decades.

Says Mr. Fagen: "We're changing the economy of the Corn Belt."

It's true in more than one way. Ethanol plants will consume about 12% of the corn harvested by U.S. farmers last fall. An ethanol plant can draw in most of the corn grown for tens of miles around. That means farmers don't haul it to the local grain elevator for marketing, and a grain elevator that doesn't get grain is in trouble. Fighting back, the farmer-owned elevator in Nevada decided it would be the one that built an ethanol plant here, before somebody else did.

The country's largest farmer-owned cooperative, however, sees mostly risk when it comes to ethanol. At the co-op, CHS Inc., Chief Executive John Johnson says, "I think it is very likely the Midwest will be overbuilt soon."

A bill that nearly cleared Congress in 2003 would have required the oil industry, by the year 2012, to use five billion gallons of ethanol annually. But that level of production may be reached in as soon as two years. Now, some ethanol-industry lobbyists are floating the idea of a federal mandate to use eight billion gallons a year. Oil-industry officials are leery, and it isn't clear whether lawmakers can resolve differences that sunk the previous legislation.

David Nelson, a farmer who's chairman of the two-year-old Midwest Grain Processors ethanol plant in Lakota, Iowa, is well aware of the overexpansion threat. "It's starting to get crowded around here," says Mr. Nelson, 52, sipping a Corona in the smoky bar of Cattleman's Steak & Provisions near his Belmond, Iowa, farm. "In the back of our minds, we know there is to be a day of reckoning."

But his solution isn't to cut back. It's to grow big enough to survive a shakeout. Midwest Grain Processors sold about $17 million more stock in January to double the size of its plant. That means this plant alone will be able to make 100 million gallons a year. And its farmer owners are already thinking about where to build a second plant.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NOMINEES
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (PUBLIC)

1. Full name,(include any former names used),and City and State where you currently reside.

   Thomas C. Dorr
   Alexandria, VA

2. Date and place of birth.

   Cherokee, Iowa
   27 June 46

3. Marital Status (include maiden name of wife or husband's name). List spouse's occupation, employer's name and business address(es).

   Ann Louise Allison-Dorr (Ann L. Dorr)

4. Education: List each college and graduate or professional school you have attended, including dates of attendance, degrees received, and dates degrees were granted.

   Morningside College
   Sioux City, Iowa
   1964 - 1969
   B.S.
   June 1969

5. Employment Record: List (by year) all business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions and organizations, nonprofit or otherwise, including farms, with which you were connected as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college; include a title and brief job description.

   December 12, 2003 - Present Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture. Appointed by President George W. Bush.

August 9, 2002 - December 11, 2003 Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development USDA. Appointed by President George W. Bush

May 2001 - August 8, 2002 Consultant to USDA Rural Development

2000 Chairman, Administrative Council, Grace United Methodist Church - Marcus, Iowa

October 2000 - February 2001 Director, Donlar/Biomune Systems Inc., Bedford Park, Il. The firm specializes in the development and manufacture of bio-degradable polymers with applications in the energy and agricultural production sectors.

1976 - 2001 President, Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Company, Marcus, Iowa. A farm operating company involved in the rental, management, and custom farming of family and non-family owned farm properties.

1980 - 2001 President, PGF Seeds Incorporated, Marcus, Iowa. A personally held corporation whose primary business is the contract production of soybean seed and operating an Iowa state licensed grain elevator and warehouse. The company also retails soybean seed.

1972 - 1976 Employee, H & M Dorr Farms, Marcus, Iowa. Returned as employee of my Father and Uncle's family farming operation. Responsible for day to day crop and livestock operations.

1969 - 1972 District Manager for the Measurement Research Center, Iowa City, Iowa. Responsible for sample selection and site administration of the testing programs for the National Assessment of Educational Progress effort (NAEP) in select regions of the country. This program continues today and is being administered by the Education Commission of the States.

1993 - 2002 General Manager and Partner of Dorr Swine, LLC. This is a family owned limited liability company which owns a 3600 head swine contract finishing facility.

1995 - 2002; General Manager and Partner of Dorrs' North Pork LLC. This is a family owned limited liability company which owns a 4000 head swine finishing facility. Since 2002 I have been a partner.

1990 - 2002 Officer and Director Dorr Incorporated. A family owned farm corporation which owns and operates farm land in the Marcus, Iowa area. Since 2002 I have been a stockholder of the company.

1998 - 2002 President of Dorr Incorporated. A family owned farm corporation which owns and operates farm land in the Marcus, Iowa area.

1992 - 1998 Director - Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Committee assignments included a term as Chairman of the Personnel Committee and serving on the Executive Committee. As board members, our primary responsibilities included bank governance and the establishment of bi-weekly monetary policy recommendations to the Board of Governors and the Federal Open Market Committee.

1991 - 1997 Member - Iowa Board of Regents. Appointed by the Governor of Iowa. The board is responsible for establishing policy and the administration of the five Regents institutions of Iowa, which included administering an annual budget in excess of $ 2.0 billion. I held a variety of committee assignments, which included a term as Chairman of the Banking Committee.

1990 - 1991 Director - Wallace Technology Transfer Foundation. Appointed by the Governor of Iowa to a foundation established by the Iowa State Legislature to formulate and implement plans and programs for development and transfer of technology to facilitate commercialization by the private sector.

1990 - 1992 President & Director, Founding Member & Organizer, Heartland Care Center, Marcus, Iowa. Organizer, founding member and first elected President of the Board of Directors of Heartland Care Center, a $2.8 million privately funded long term care facility in Marcus. Facility was completed and opened in July 1995.

1988 - 1991 Director, Founding Member & Organizer, Cherokee County Area Economic Development Corporation - Cherokee, Iowa. A non-profit corporation whose mission is to combine community and rural resources into one focused economic development effort for the county.

1987 President & Director, Founding Member & Organizer, Chicago Central and Pacific Shippers Association, Aurelia, IA. An association organized with the expressed purpose of providing support and improving communications to the management of a

struggling railroad while retaining the use and viability of a major regional rail line. The effort was successful and the organization disbanded.

1986 - 1988 Director, Marcus Economic Development Corporation - Marcus, Iowa. A local non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to facilitate local economic growth. It is privately funded.

1983 - 1986 Member, Cherokee County Board of Review - Cherokee, Iowa. Appointed by the Cherokee County Board of Supervisors. I served as one of a three member appointed panel for a three year term, as provided by Iowa law, to adjudicate taxpayer property tax assessment appeals.

1978 - 1986 Director and Officer, National Corn Growers Association - St. Louis, Mo. A farmer commodity organization concerned with the development of farm economic and political policies at national and international levels. Elected to board by peers from Iowa.

1976 - 1985 Director and Officer, Iowa Corn Growers Association - Des Moines, IA. A farmer commodity organization concerned with the development of farm economic and political policies at national and international levels. A member and key architect of the implementation of the first statewide corn check off that was passed into law and instituted within the United States.

6. Military Service: Have you had any military service? If so, give particulars, including the dates, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number and type of discharge received.

Yes. July 1966 - May 1968, Iowa Air National Guard, 185th Sioux City, Iowa. Airman, forget specific rank. Honorable Discharge, May 1968.

7. Government Service: State (chronologically) your government service or public offices you have held, including the terms of service grade levels and whether such positions were elected or appointed.

December 10, 2003 to present. Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture. Appointed by President George W. Bush.

August 9, 2002 to December 10, 2003. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. Appointed by President George W. Bush.

May 2001 to August 8, 2002. Consultant to USDA's Office of Rural Development. Appointed by President George W. Bush.

8. Honors and Awards: List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, and honorary society memberships that you received and believe would be of interest to the Committee.

None

9. Other Memberships: List all organizations to which you belong, excluding religious organizations.

National Corn Growers Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Agi-Business Association of Iowa, Marcus, Iowa Chamber of Commerce, Republican Party of Iowa, Cherokee County Rural Water District, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, First Farmers Coop Association, Cherokee, Iowa, Farmers Cooperative Society, Sioux Center, Iowa,

10. Published Writings: List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published materials (including published speeches) you have written. Please include on this list published materials on which you are listed as the principal editor. It would be helpful to the Committee if you could provide one copy of all published material that may not be readily available. Also, to the maximum extent practicable, please supply a copy of all unpublished speeches you made during the past five years on issues involving agriculture, nutrition, forestry or commodity futures policy or related matters.

None.
Speeches made while serving as Under Secretary of Rural Development may be viewed at the following website address.
2002 - www.rurdev.usda.gov/scrty/2002speeches.html
2003 - www.rurdev.usda.gov/scrty/2003speeches.html

11. Health: What is the present state of your health?

Excellent

FINANCIAL DATA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST (PUBLIC)

1. Have you severed all connections with your immediate past private sector employers, business firms, associations, and/or organizations?

Dorr's North Pork operating business and real estate has been sold. The company is in the process of filing final tax return. I have no management office or responsibility for the company.

Dorr Inc. is a family corporation, in which I have a 10% interest. Because Dorr Inc. carries out no farming other business operations, and receives no farm-related income except for cash rentals received from the lease of its land, my continued ownership interest, and my receipt of my share of any dividends, if issued, will result in no conflict of interest with the duties I will perform if confirmed to serve in the positions for which I have been nominated.

Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. ceased all farming operations in 2002, it has no farm land holdings. Some of its buildings, including the granary, are being rented to the tenants cash renting my and other family farm ground. My wife Ann serves as the President and sole board member. DPGFC owns a scale house and bin site, which is located on land owned by me. I have liquidated most of the equipment of DPGFC. My only remaining sources of income from this company would be: the sale of remaining equipment, the cash lease payments and any investments of the company, as listed on my SF278 and submitted financial statements. Unless I have received an authorization pursuant to §2635.502(d), I will disqualify myself from participating in any particular matter in which the lessee of DPGFC is or represents a party.

Melvin G Dorr Irrev. Family Trust of which I have a 1/6th beneficial interest. This Trust owns 288 acres of farmland in Iowa, which is currently leased on a fixed payment cash lease. Subsequent to my appointment as Under Secretary for Rural Development, neither I nor my spouse or minor children will have any ownership interest or management role, or be actively engaged in the farming operations conducted on such lands.

Thomas C. Dorr - I own 291 acres of farmland in Cherokee County, Iowa, which is currently leased on a fixed payment cash lease. Subsequent to my appointment as Under Secretary for Rural Development, neither I, nor my spouse or minor children will have any ownership interest or management role, or be actively engaged

in any farming operations conducted on such lands.

Thomas and Ann Dorr Roth, LLC.- My wife and I own together the Thomas and Ann Dorr Roth LLC (TADR). The Security National Bank of Sioux City, Iowa, acts as trustee. This company owns 86 acres of farmland in Cherokee County, IA. The land was rented on a cash lease basis. Because TADR carries out no farming or other business operations and received no farm-related income, except for cash rentals received from the lease of its land, my continued ownership interest and my receipt of my share of the rental income received will result in no conflict of interest with the duties I will perform if confirmed to serve in the positions for which I have been nominated.

2. List sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock options, incomplete contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients, or customers.

   Dorr's North Pork, LLC. - Limited partnership equity distribution as a result of dissolution of company. Estimated in the amount of $85,000 in the next 180 days.

3. Do you, or does any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, own or operate a farm or ranch? (If yes, please give a brief description including location, size and type of operation.)

   Yes, the following.

   Thomas C. Dorr 291 acres of land in Cherokee, County, Iowa
   Thomas C. & Ann L Dorr Roth IRA LLC 86 acres of land in Cherokee County, Iowa

   Dorr Incorporated 265 acres of land in Cherokee, County, Iowa

   Thomas C. Dorr's; Thomas C. Dorr & Ann L. Dorr Roth IRA LLC's; and Dorr Incorporated's property is farmland on which we produce corn and soybeans. Dorr Inc. is a family farm corporation founded in the late 1940's. I own 12% of the stock.

   Dorrs' North Pork is a shell company, formerly in the business of contract swine feeding, and now in the process of being

dissolved. It is owned in Limited Liability (partnership) arrangement with several Brothers, my Mother, and one cousin. The only asset presently owned by the company is cash. The facilities have been sold and the company is being dissolved.

4. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever participated in Federal commodity price support programs? (If yes, provide all details including amounts of direct government payments and loans received or forfeited by crop and farm, etc. during the past five years.)

   Yes

   See attached Item "Addendum 4a"

5. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever received a direct or guaranteed loan from or cosigned a note to the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, the Rural Utilities Service or their predecessor agencies, the Farmers Home Administration, the Rural Development Administration, the Rural Housing and Cooperative Development Service or the Rural Electrification Administration? (If yes, give details of any such loan activity during the past 5 years.)

   Yes, but not in the last five years.

6. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever received payments for crop losses from the Federal Crop Insurance program? (If yes, give details.)

   Yes

   1993 - Due to excess rain crop production was impeded and Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. and I, personally, received indemnity payments
   from crop insurance coverage provided by our Multi-Peril Crop Insurance policies

   2000 - Due to drought crop production was impeded and Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Company, Dorr Inc., and I, personally, received indemnity payments from crop insurance coverage provided by our CRC 80 insurance policies.

7. If confirmed, do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment or engage in any business or

vocation, with or without compensation, during your service with the government? (If so, explain.)

No

8. Do you have any plans to resume employment, affiliation, or practice with your previous employers, business firms, associations, or organizations after completing government service? (If yes, give details.)

Yes, return to my farming and grain business operations.

9. Has anyone made a commitment to employ you or retain your services in any capacity after you leave government service? (If yes, please specify.)

No

10. Identify all investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated.

As to my nomination for Under Secretary for Rural Development, I have modest equity interests in a number of publicly traded entities, which could conceivably be a party to, or be directly and substantially affected by, a particular matter which could arise within USDA and within in the purview of the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. Those entities are: (1) McLeod USA; (2) Citigroup Inc.; (3) Farmers Co-op Society, Sioux Center, Iowa; (4) General Electric; (5) First Farmers Coop Association, Cherokee, IA: (6) Farmers Cooperative, Hinton, IA

In anticipation of receiving the traditional companion nomination, that of board member of the Commodity Credit Corporation, I own Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Company. This company was formerly an operating company and now owns a few pieces of equipment.

I also have minority interests in Dorr Inc., a family farming corporation, a family trust established by my deceased Father, potential enjoyment of three additional family trusts established by my deceased Father, and Dorr's North Pork LLC, which is a family owned Limited Liability Company, that had been involved in contract swine feeding operations and is now being dissolved.

I have outstanding loan arrangements with the following lending

institutions: Northwestern State Bank, Orange City, Iowa; and National City Mortgage of Dayton, Ohio.

11. Have you ever received a government guaranteed student loan? If so, has it been repaid?

    Yes, it has been fully repaid.

12. If confirmed, explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items.

    Please see attached Ethics Agreement dated April 25, 2005

Thomas C. Dorr
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency - CCC Payments

	1998 Corn	1998 Soybeans	1999 Corn	1999 Soybeans	2000 Corn	2000 Soybeans	2001 Corn	2001 Soybeans	2002 Corn	2002 Soybeans
Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co.										
Production Flexibility Contract	22,750.00		21,888.00		20,552.00		15,076.00			
Loan Deficiency Payments		7,367.91	1,291.10	27,153.36		23,244.93				
Market Gains	30,418.28	9,090.00	12,690.53		18,494.10		9,292.31	31,177.16		
Market Loss Assistance	11,313.00		21,888.00		22,336.00		17,205.00			
Oilseed Program				4,130.00		8,032.00				
Disaster Program						913.00				
CCC Grain Loans										
Received	150,023.72	45,990.00	138,009.48		139,911.81		134,738.44	120,489.16		
Repaid	119,605.44	36,900.00	125,318.95		121,417.71		125,446.13	89,312.00		
Dorr, Inc.										
Production Flexibility Contract	2,970.00		2,852.00		2,722.00		2,221.00			
Loan Deficiency Payments		1,709.75		5,374.12		1,851.96		6,840.10		
Market Gains	1,120.57	1,010.00	969.02		3,561.98		750.65			
Market Loss Assistance	1,477.00		2,852.00		2,959.00		2,535.00			
Oilseed Program				575.00		1,567.00				
Disaster Program										
CCC Grain Loans										
Received	5,416.08	5,110.00	10,538.10		26,947.12		10,047.14			
Repaid	4,295.51	4,100.00	9,569.08		23,385.14		9,296.49			
Thomas C. Dorr										
Production Flexibility Contract	4,624.00		4,432.00		4,218.00		3,429.00			
Loan Deficiency Payments		60.03		6,334.15	4,117.10	3,125.46	1,125.53	8,616.09		
Market Gains	10,132.95	2,020.00	1,954.22							
Market Loss Assistance	2,299.00		4,432.00		4,585.00		3,913.00			
Oilseed Program				1,405.00		2,626.00				
Disaster Program										
CCC Grain Loans										
Received	51,856.86	10,220.00	21,252.10							
Repaid	41,723.91	8,200.00	19,297.88							
Melvin G. Dorr Irrev. Family Trust										
Production Flexibility Contract	3,156.00		3,042.00		2,799.00		2,254.00			
Loan Deficiency Payments				2,172.22		3,945.07	406.72	2,764.93		
Market Gains	3,963.15	2,954.25	2,059.03		1,242.59		995.83			
Market Loss Assistance	1,569.00		3,042.00		3,042.00		2,572.00			
Oilseed Program				500.00		935.00				
Disaster Program										
CCC Grain Loans										
Received	19,155.23	14,946.75	22,391.99		9,400.42		14,439.51			
Repaid	15,192.08	11,992.50	20,332.96		8,157.83		13,443.68			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration

Office of Ethics

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Washington, DC 20250-0122

Bob Sturm
Chief Clerk
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Sturm:

Enclosed is a copy of an ethics agreement, dated April 25, 2005, executed by Thomas C. Dorr, who was nominated to serve as Undersecretary for Rural Development. This ethics agreement supercedes the ethics agreement executed by Mr. Dorr on March 17, 2005.

The enclosed ethics agreement amends the March 17, 2005, agreement by adding the following interest to the list of assets found on pages 1 and 2 of the previous agreement:

McLeod USA, Inc.
First Cooperative Association of Cherokee, Iowa
Farmers Cooperative of Hinton, Iowa

Based upon the information contained in his Financial Disclosure Report and the aforementioned ethics agreement, I can see nothing that would give rise to a conflict of interest or appearance thereof with respect to the position for which he has been nominated.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Sheehan
Director
Office of Ethics

Enclosures

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration

Office of Ethics

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Washington, DC 20250-0122

March 17, 2005

Honorable Marilyn L. Glynn
Acting Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, N.W. – suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Glynn:

Enclosed is a copy of the SF 278, Public Financial Disclosure Report submitted by Thomas C. Dorr, who was nominated on March 10, 2005, to serve as Undersecretary for Rural Development and as traditional, also as a board member of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). I have reviewed and signed Mr. Dorr's SF 278 as this Department's designated agency ethics official.

This letter also covers an ethics agreement in the form of a letter from Mr. Dorr, dated March 17, 2005, in which he agrees to:

- Disqualify himself from personal and substantial participation in particular matters that directly and predictably affect his personal farming interests in: Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust; Thomas and Ann Dorr Roth LLC; Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co.; Dorr's North Pork LLC; and Dorr, Inc.;
- Disqualify himself from personal and substantial participation in particular matters that directly and predictably affect his investment interests in Citigroup, Inc., General Electric, and Farmers Co-op Society; and
- Disqualify himself from participating in particular matters in which Northwestern State Bank is, or represents, a party.

Based upon the information contained in his Financial Disclosure Report and the aforementioned ethics agreement, I can see nothing that would give rise to a conflict of interest or appearance thereof with the position for which he has been nominated.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Sheehan
Alternate Agency Ethics Official

Enclosures

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

April 25, 2005

Mr. John C. Surina
Designated Agency Ethics Official
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250-0122

Dear Mr. Surina:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I intend to take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, and as is traditional, also as a board member of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development plays no role in the supervision or implementation of Federal farm programs; however, in the event I am confirmed to serve as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the CCC, I will share responsibility for oversight and implementation of such programs. The steps detailed below take into account any potential conflicts or appearances thereof associated with both of these positions.

Overall, I understand that, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I may not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on my financial interests or those of any other person whose interests are imputed to me, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to section 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to section 208(b)(2). I further understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me: my spouse, minor children, or any general partner; any organization in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

1. Matters Pertinent to the Position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development

I have modest financial interests in five entities, each of which could conceivably be a party to, or be directly and substantially affected by, a particular matter that could arise within USDA and within the purview of the Under Secretary for Rural Development. For the reasons noted with respect to each, these entities are:

- Citigroup, Inc. (a banking institution, some of whose subsidiaries participate in Rural Development guaranteed loans)

- General Electric Co. (which manufactures electrical generating turbines which may be used by rural electrical utilities)
- Farmers Co-op Society, Sioux Center, Iowa; First Coop. Association of Cherokee, Iowa; and Farmers Coop Company of Hinton, Iowa (entities which could apply to participate in programs and activities conducted by USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service).
- McLeod USA, Inc. (one of the largest independent telecommunications service providers and which may participate in Rural Development's rural utility programs—listed in an abundance of caution as the company is engaged in restructuring negotiations, and the company has advised that its preferred and common shareholders are unlikely to receive any recovery).

In the event I am confirmed, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of these entities, unless I first obtain a written waiver or qualify for a regulatory exemption. I also agree to notify you should I acquire any financial interest in any electric or telephone utility companies, or companies that provide Internet service.

2. Matters Pertinent to the Position of Board Member of the Commodity Credit Corporation

I own farming interests in Iowa. Additionally, I have ownership interests in entities known as (1) Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co., (2) Thomas and Ann Dorr Roth LLC, (3) Dorr's North Pork LLC, Dorr, Inc, and (4) Dorr, Inc. Finally, I have a loan with Northwestern State Bank of Orange City, Iowa.

• Personal Farming Interests

I own 280 acres of farmland in Cherokee County, Iowa, which is currently leased on a fixed payment cash lease. Subsequent to my appointment as Under Secretary for Rural Development, neither I, nor my spouse or minor children will have any ownership interest or management role, or be actively engaged in any farming operations conducted on such lands. Further, the returns that other family members and I receive will be based solely upon the value of the rental lands and will bear no relationship to the profitability of the farming operations conducted on such lands. Under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will disqualify myself from participating in any particular matter in which the lessee of this land--or any other lessee of mine--is, or represents a party unless I have received an authorization pursuant to § 2635.502(d). As a result, no conflict of interest will exist between my continued ownership of this land and the duties I will perform if confirmed.

I own a 1/6th interest in the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust (MGDIFT). This trust owns 288 acres of farmland in Iowa, which is currently leased on a fixed payment cash lease. Subsequent to my appointment as Under Secretary for Rural Development, neither I, nor my spouse or minor children will have any ownership interest or management role, or be

actively engaged in the farming operations conducted on such lands. Further, the returns that other family members and I receive will be based solely upon the value of the rental lands and will bear no relationship to the profitability of the farming operations conducted on such lands. Under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will disqualify myself from participating in any particular matter in which the lessee of the MGDIFT is, or represents a party unless I have received an authorization pursuant to § 2635.502(d). As a result, no conflict of interest will exist between my continued ownership of the MGDIFT and the duties I will perform if confirmed. Although I cannot currently envision a situation where this trust could lead to a conflict of interest with my proposed duties, in an abundance of caution, I will also disqualify myself from participating personally and substantially in any particular matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on the MGDIFT.

Additionally, there are certain family-owned lands—consisting of approximately 300 acres—that under the Internal Revenue Code must be separately addressed. Upon the death of my father in 1998, and in connection with the probate of his estate, a Qualified Family-Owned Business Exclusion was utilized with respect to this property. As a result, title to these lands is held jointly by the Melvin G. Dorr Residual Trust (MGDR Trust), and the Margaret L. Dorr Qualified Terminable Interest Property Marital Deduction Trust (MLD QTIP Trust). As a condition to the use of the described exclusion, the two named trusts and the "family business" on which the exclusion is based must maintain a material interest in the operation, and the farming activities on the lands must continue to be operated by family members for the balance of the 10-year period that commenced in 1999. I have resigned as a trustee, and my mother and brother serve and will continue to serve as Managing Trustees of these trusts. The acreage in question is and will continue to be custom farmed by an operating entity, and the trusts will receive income from the crops produced thereof. I will disqualify myself from participating personally and substantially in any particular matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on the aforementioned trusts.

- **Thomas and Ann Dorr Roth, LLC**

My wife and I own together the Thomas and Ann Dorr Roth LLC (TADR). The Security Bank of Sioux City Iowa acts as trustee. This company owns 86 acres of farmland in Cherokee County, Iowa. The land was recently rented on a cash lease basis. Because TADR carries out no farming or other business operations and receives no farm-related income except for cash rentals received from the lease of its land, my continued ownership interest and my receipt of my share of the rental income received will result in no conflict of interest with the duties I will perform if confirmed to serve in the positions for which I have been nominated. To assure that no conflict of interest will exist, in the event I am confirmed, I will, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), disqualify myself from participating personally and substantially in any particular matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on TADR. Additionally, under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will disqualify myself from participating in any particular matter in which the lessee of the land owned by Dorr, Inc. or the Security Bank of Sioux City is or represents a party, unless I have received an authorization pursuant to §2635.502(d).

- **Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co**

Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Company (DPGFC) is a farm operating company which I own in its entirety, and which is established under the laws of Iowa and qualified under chapter 1, subchapter C, of the Internal Revenue Code. DPGFC currently conducts no farming operations. DPGFC owns a scale house and bin site, which is located on land owned by me. The scale house and bins are cash leased to a farmer, who uses the property for his own storage. I have no management office or responsibility for the company and will not assume any such office or responsibility during my tenure at USDA. I have liquidated most of the equipment of DPGFC. My only remaining sources of income from this company would be: the sale of the remaining equipment, the cash lease payments and any investments of the company. I will disqualify myself from participating personally and substantially in any particular matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on DPGFC. Under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will disqualify myself from participating in any particular matter in which the lessee of DPGFC is, or represents a party unless I have received an authorization pursuant to § 2635.502(d).

- **Dorrs' North Pork LLC**

Dorrs' North Pork LLC is a limited liability corporation situated in Cherokee county, Iowa, in which I have a 21% equity interest and a 35% income interest. The company has been engaged in contract swine feeding operations. I have no management office or responsibility for the company and will not assume any such office or responsibility during my tenure at USDA. The assets and business of the company have been sold leaving only cash. While employed at USDA, my only income from my ownership interest in Dorrs' North Pork will be a receipt of my share of the proceeds of the sale of corporate assets and any undistributed profits. The corporation will engage in no business activities during my tenure with USDA. Further, the corporation will file a final return and be dissolved within 120 days.

- **Dorr, Inc.**

Dorr, Inc. is a family corporation, in which I have a 10% ownership interest. The corporation owns approximately 280 acres of land, as well as cash and securities. Because Dorr, Inc. carries out no farming or other business operations, and receives no farm-related income except for cash rentals received from the lease of its land, my continued ownership interest, and my receipt of my share of the rental income received, will result in no conflict of interest with the duties I will perform if confirmed to serve in the positions for which I have been nominated. To assure that no conflict of interest will exist, in the event I am confirmed, I will, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 208(a) disqualify myself from participating personally and substantially in any particular matter that will have a direct an predictable effect on Dorr, Inc.

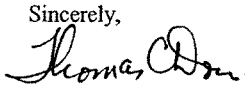
Additionally, under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will disqualify myself from participating in any particular matter in which the lessee of Dorr, Inc. is, or represents a party unless I have received an authorization pursuant to § 2635.502(d).

- **Outstanding Loans**

I have an outstanding loan with Northwestern State Bank, Orange City, Iowa. I have previously disqualified myself from participating in any particular matters in which this lending institution is, or represents, a party until such time as my debt to it has been extinguished, unless I receive an authorization pursuant to § 2635.502(d). This disqualification will continue so long as I am employed by USDA.

I believe that the steps I have agreed to take, as outlined above, will assure that no conflict of interest or appearance thereof will exist between my personal financial interests on the one hand, and the duties I will perform as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and as a member of the Board of Directors of the CCC on the other.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Dorr

April 22, 2005

Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On March 15, 2004, a copy of my SF-278, Executive Branch Public Financial Disclosure Report, required in connection with my nomination to serve as Under Secretary for Rural Development at the Department of Agriculture was submitted to the U.S. Office of Government Ethics. That report contained all required financial information for calendar year 2004 and for the current calendar year through March 17, 2005.

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, also requires that I update certain of the information reported on the SF-278, i.e., that required by section 102(a)(1)(A) of the Act, respecting income (other than my Federal salary and dividends, interest, rents, and capital gains) and honoraria, to a date which occurs not more than five days before the date of the hearing to be held by your Committee to consider my nomination. The hearing to be held on my nomination is scheduled for April 27, 2005. The purpose of this letter is to report that since I filed my Financial Disclosure Report, I have the following additional information, not normally reported pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act.

1. CY 2004 Federal Earned Income - $126,103.00
2. CY 2005 through Pay Period 06, Federal Earned Income - $39,735.00

I trust that this letter satisfies the additional applicable reporting requirements contained in the Ethics in Government Act.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Dorr
Nominee for Under Secretary for Rural Development of
the Department of Agriculture

cc: Hon. Marilyn Glynn, Acting Director, US Office of Government Ethics
John Surina, USDA Designated Agency Ethics Official

United States
Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

April 26, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6000

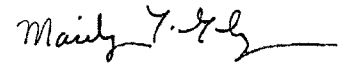
Dear Mr. Chairman:

On March 23, 2005, we transmitted to the Committee the financial disclosure report filed by Thomas C. Dorr, who was nominated by President Bush for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development and for the position of Member, Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture. Also enclosed was a letter dated March 17, 2005, from Mr. Dorr to the Department's ethics official, discussing his ethics commitments and outlining the steps that he would take to avoid conflicts of interest, and our opinion with respect thereto.

Mr. Dorr has revised his financial disclosure form to add financial interests in two additional cooperative societies, and also to correct the value of his Exxon Mobil Corporation stock. In addition, he has amended his ethics agreement to state that he will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that will directly and predictably affect the financial interests of the cooperative societies. He also has added a commitment not to participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of McLeod USA, Inc., in which he holds a de minimis financial interest. I understand that you have received copies of these amended documents.

We have reviewed the amended ethics agreement and financial disclosure form provided by Mr. Dorr. Accordingly, we continue to believe that Mr. Dorr is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,



Marilyn L. Glynn
General Counsel

United States
Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

March 23, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Thomas C. Dorr, who has been nominated by President Bush for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development and for the position of Member, Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have also obtained advice from the Department of Agriculture concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is a letter dated March 17, 2005, from Mr. Dorr to the Department's ethics official, outlining the steps which Mr. Dorr will take to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a specific date has been agreed to, the nominee must fully comply within three months of his confirmation date with the actions he agreed to take in his ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that Mr. Dorr is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

Marilyn L. Glynn
Acting Director

Enclosures

SF278 (Rev. 03/2000)
5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Executive Branch Personnel PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Form Approved
OMB No. 3209-0001

Date of Appointment, Candidacy, Election or Nomination (*Month, Day, Year*): January 24, 2005	Reporting Status (*Check appropriate boxes*): [ ] Incumbent; Calendar Year Covered by Report:	[X] New Entrant, Nominee, or Candidate	[ ] Termination Filer	Termination Date (*If Applicable*) (*Month, Day, Year*):	
Reporting Individual's Name	Last Name: Dorr	First Name and Middle Initial: Thomas C			
Position for Which Filing	Title of Position: Under Secretary for Rural Development	Department or Agency (*If Applicable*): Department of Agriculture			
Location of Present Office (or forwarding address)	Address (*Number, Street, City, State, and ZIP Code*): 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250	Telephone No. (*Include Area Code*): (202) 720-2261			
Position(s) Held with the Federal Government During the Preceding 12 Months (If Not Same as Above)	Title of Position(s) and Date(s) Held: Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture December 2003 to Present				
Presidential Nominees Subject to Senate Confirmation	Name of Congressional Committee Considering Nomination: Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	Do You Intend to Create a Qualified Diversified Trust? [ ] Yes [X] No			
Certification: I CERTIFY that the statements I have made on this form and all attached schedules are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.	Signature of Reporting Individual: Thomas C Dorr	Date (*Month, Day, Year*): March 17, 2005			
Other Review (If desired by agency)	Signature of Other Reviewer:	Date (*Month, Day, Year*):			
Agency Ethics Official's Opinion: On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments in the box below).	Signature of Designated Agency Ethics Official/Reviewing Official:	Date (*Month, Day, Year*): 3/17/2005			
Office of Government Ethics Use Only	Signature: Marilyn L. Glynn	Date (*Month, Day, Year*): 3/23/05			

Comments of Reviewing Officials (*If additional space is required, use the reverse side of this sheet*)

(*Check box if filing extension granted & indicate number of days* _____) [ ]

(*Check box if comments are continued on the reverse side*) [ ]

Fee for Late Filing

Any individual who is required to file this report and does so more than 30 days after the date the report is required to be filed, or, if an extension is granted, more than 30 days after the last day of the filing extension period shall be subject to a $200 fee.

Reporting Periods

Incumbents: The reporting period is the preceding calendar year except Part II of Schedule C and Part I of Schedule D where you must also include the filing year up to the date you file. Part II of Schedule D is not applicable.

Termination Filers: The reporting period begins at the end of the period covered by your previous filing and ends at the date of termination. Part II of Schedule D is not applicable.

Nominees, New Entrants and Candidates for President and Vice President:

Schedule A--The reporting period for income (BLOCK C) is the preceding calendar year and the current calendar year up to the date of filing. Value assets as of any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing.

Schedule B--Not applicable.

Schedule C, Part I (Liabilities)--The reporting period is the preceding calendar year and the current calendar year up to any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing.

Schedule C, Part II (Agreements or Arrangements)-- Show any agreements or arrangements as of the date of filing.

Schedule D--The reporting period is the preceding two calendar years and the current calendar year up to the date of filing.

Agency Use Only

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MAR 18 2005

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U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Reporting Individual's Name: DORR, Thomas C.

SCHEDULE A

Page Number

Assets and Income — BLOCK A

For you, your spouse, and dependent children, report each asset held for investment or the production of income which had a fair market value exceeding $1,000 at the close of the reporting period, or which generated more than $200 in income during the reporting period, together with such income.

For yourself, also report the source and actual amount of earned income exceeding $200 (other than from the U.S. Government). For your spouse, report the source but not the amount of earned income of more than $1,000 (except report the actual acount of any honoraria over $200 of your spouse).

None ☐

Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period — BLOCK B

Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. — BLOCK C

	Assets and Income (Block A)	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
Examples	Central Airlines Common				X												X*						X										
	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State			X																												Law Partnership Income $150,000	
	Kempstone Equity Fund					X										X								X									
	IRA: Heartland 500 Index Fund							X							X										X								
1	Roth IRA: PIMCO Total Return Fund Sold 11/30/04 - Purchased 4/22/02	X												X								X											
2	Roth IRA: Cendant Corp Sold 11/30/04 - Purchased 12/8/03	X																		X		X											
3	Roth IRA:Chicago Mercantile Exchange Sold 6/2/04 & 7/6/04 Purchased 4/7/03, 10/9/03, 6/8/04	X																		X						X							
4	Roth IRA: Intel Corporation Sold 11/30/04 - Purchased 11/27/02	X																		X		X											
5	Roth IRA: Oakmark Fund Part Sold 11/30/04 Purchased 3/15/02, 4/22/02, 10/21/02			X										X									X										
6	Roth IRA: Pfizer Inc. Sold 11/3/0/04 - Purchased 10/21/02 No capital gains	X															X					X											

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categ

Prior Editions Cannot be Used.

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5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Reporting Individual's Name: DORR, Thomas C.

SCHEDULE A continued
(Use only if needed)

Page Number

Assets and Income — BLOCK A

Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period — BLOCK B

Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. — BLOCK C

#	Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000 *	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
	None ☐																																
1	Roth IRA: Qualcomm Inc. Purchased 11/27/02		X																		X												
2	Roth IRA: Wal-Mart Stores Inc. Sold 11/30/04, Purchased 10/22/02 & 10/9/03, No capital gains	X																			X												
3	Roth IRA: Exxon Mobil Corp Purchased 12/30/03			X													X					X											
4	Roth IRA: Isis Pharmaceuticals Sold 5/6/04 - Purchased 6/2/03	X																			X												
5	Roth IRA: Merrill Lynch & Co Sold 5/6/04 - Purchased 12/10/03 No capital gains	X																			X												
6	Roth IRA: Target Corporation Sold 11/30/04 - Purchased 10/9/03	X																		X			X										
7	Roth IRA: Washington Mutual Inc. Sold 11/30/04 - Purchased 9/9/03	X															X			X		X X											
8	Roth IRA: Schwab Money Market Fund	X												X								X											
9	Roth IRA: Chevron Texaco Corp Part Sold 11/30/04 Purchased 5/6/04 & 6/2/04			X													X			X		X	X										

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Reporting Individual's Name: DORR, Thomas C.

SCHEDULE A continued

(Use only if needed)

Page Number

Assets and Income — BLOCK A

Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period — BLOCK B

Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. — BLOCK C

#	Assets and Income (None ☐)	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000 *	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honorarium
1																																	
2	John Hancock Flexible Variable Life Insurance Policy--Invested in John Hancock Large Cap Equity Fund				X									X							X												
3	Simple IRA: American Intl Group Inc Purchased 11/27/02		X																		X												
4	Simple IRA: Schwab Money Market Fund		X											X							X												
5	Simple IRA: Chicago Mercantile Exchange - Sold 6/2/04 & 7/6/04 Purchased 1/20/04 & 6/8/04	X																		X					X								
6	Simple IRA: Qualcomm Inc. Purchased 1/20/04		X																		X												
7 J	Schwab Access Account - Sch Govt Cash Reserves (Money Market)		X											X							X												
8 S	Tennessee Farmers Assurance Co. Columbia, TN		X														X					X											
9 J	Rental House Marcus, IA				X													X						X									

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Reporting Individual's Name: DORR, Thomas C.

SCHEDULE A continued
(Use only if needed)

Page Number

Assets and Income — BLOCK A

Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period — BLOCK B

Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. — BLOCK C

#	Assets and Income (None ☐)	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1	Spouse - IRAs																																
2 S	Roth IRA: Schwab Money Market Fund	x												x							x												
3 S	Roth IRA: Sysco Corporation Sold 11/30/04 - Purchased 10/21/02	x																		x		x											
4 S	Roth IRA: PIMCO Total Return Fund Sold 11/30/04 - Purchased 4/22/02	x												x						x		x											
5 S	Roth IRA: Vanguard Health Care Fund Part Sold 12/1/04 - Purchased 10/22/02		x											x						x				x									
6 S	Roth IRA: Citigroup Inc. Sold 11/30/04 - Purchased 11/27/02	x															x			x		x		x									
7 S	Roth IRA: Johnson & Johnson Sold 1/20/04 - Purchased 10/22/02 No capital gains	x																			x												
8 S	Roth IRA: Microsoft Corporation Sold 12/6/04 - Purchased 11/27/02 No capital gains	x															x							x									
9 S	Roth IRA: Oakmark Fund Part Sold 11/30/04 Purchased 3/15/02 & 4/22/02		x											x						x				x									

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categ

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Reporting Individual's Name: DORR, Thomas C.

SCHEDULE A continued
(Use only if needed)

Page Number

	Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)															Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. (BLOCK C)																	
	None ☐	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)*	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1 S	Roth IRA: AON Corporation Sold 11/30/04 - Purchased 9/9/03 No capital gains	X																			X													
2 S	Roth IRA: Comcast Corp New CL A Sold 5/6/04 - Purchased 10/27/03 No capital gains	X																			X													
3 S	Roth IRA: Dell Inc Sold 5/6/04 - Purchased 10/16/03 No capital gains	X																			X													
4 S	Roth IRA: Emerson Electric Sold 5/6/04 - Purchased 12/30/03 No capital gains	X																			X													
5 S	Roth IRA: Procter & Gamble Co Sold 11/30/04 - Purchased 12/8/03	X																		X			X											
6 S	Roth IRA: Qualcomm Inc. Purchased 1/20/04		X																		X													
7 S	Roth IRA:Chicago Mercantile Exchange Sold 7/6/04 - Purchased 6/8/04	X																		X			X											
8 S	Roth IRA: Exxon Mobil Corporation Purchased 5/6/04			X													X					X												
9																																		

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Reporting Individual's Name: DORR, Thomas C.

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Page Number

Assets and Income — BLOCK A

Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period — BLOCK B

Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. — BLOCK C

#	Assets and Income (None ☐)	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000 *	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1	Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. Marcus, IA - 100% interest -Includes Scale House & Bin Site					x												x							x								
2	Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. Non-Starlink farmers' class action litigation over defective corn seed.	x																														Class action Settlement $3356	
3	Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. Cendant Corporation Sold 12/23/04 - Purchased 12/30/03	x																		x	x											Litigation Settlement $233.45	
4	Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. Electronic Data Systems Corp Sold 11/29/04 - Purchased 11/25/02	x																		x		x											
5	Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. Broadwing Corp (formerly Corvis) Purchased 9/9/03, 1/16/04, 11/29/04		x																		x												
6	Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. Exxon Mobil Corporation Purchased 12/30/03		x														x					x											
7	Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. Chicago Mercantile Exchange Sold 7/6/04 - Purchased 6/8/04	x																		x				x									
8	Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. Lanoptics Ltd Purchased 12/23/04		x																		x												
9																																	

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1	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust (1/6th beneficial interest in the trust)																															Beneficiary K-1 Income $4,507 to TCD	
2	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust 288 acres Iowa farmland All acreage previously in the trust								X									X								X							
3	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Citigroup Inc - Sold 12/6/04 Purchased 1/4/02 - No capital gains	X																			X												
4	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust General Electric Co - Sold 12/6/04 Purchased 1/4/02 - No capital gains	X																			X												
5	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Home Depot Inc - Sold 12/6/04 Purchased 1/4/02 - No capital gains	X																			X												
6	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Intel Corp - Sold 12/6/04 Purchased 1/26/99 - No capital gains	X																			X												
7	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Medtronic Inc - Sold 12/6/04 Purchased 1/4/02 - No capital gains	X																			X												
8	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Merrill Lynch & Co - Sold 12/6/04 Purchased 1/4/02	X																			X												
9	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc Sold 12/6/04 - Purchased 1/4/02	X																			X												

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1	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Wal-Mart Stores Inc - Sold 12/6/04 Purchased 1/4/02 - No capital gains	x																			x												
2	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Artisan Intl Fund Purchased 12/7/04		x											x							x												
3	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Laudus US Discovery Purchased 12/7/04		x											x							x												
4	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Loomis Sayles Bond Fund Purchased 12/8/04		x											x							x												
5	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Loomis Sayles Global Bond Fund Purchased 12/8/04		x											x							x												
6	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Oakmark Fund Purchased 12/7/04		x											x							x												
7	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Oakmark Global Fund Purchased 12/7/04		x											x							x												
8	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust PIMCO Total Return Fund Purchased 12/7/04		x											x								x											
9	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Selected American Shares Purchased 12/7/04		x											x							x												

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1	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust TCW Galileo Select Equity Fund Purchased 12/8/04		X											X							X													
2	Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust Cash & Schwab Money Market Funds		X											X							X													
3	Patronage Receivable First Coop Assoc of Cherokee, Iowa Farmers Coop Co of Hinton, Iowa		X	X																	X X												
4	Machine Shop Cherokee County, Iowa Owned since 1980s			X														X				X											
5	Hog Confinement Building Cherokee County, Iowa		X															X						X									
6 J	280 acres farmland Cherokee County, Iowa							X										X								X							
7 J	Thomas & Ann Roth LLC 86 acres farmland, Cherokee Co. IA Land on a cash lease. First pmt. Mar 05						X														X												
8 J	Thomas & Ann Dorr Roth LLC Security National Bank Money Market Funds		X											X							X												
9	Patronage Receivable Farmers Coop Society Sioux Center, Iowa		X																														

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1	Dorrs North Pork LLC, Cherokee Co. IA Hog Confinement - (35% income int) 3/15 Ceased active business, cash only.						x											x									x					Partner K-1 Income $15,890 to TCD	
2	Dorrs North Pork LLC, Cherokee Co. IA																															$29,581 Equity Dist	
3	Dorr Inc - 277 acres farmland Family Farm Corp - Cherokee Co Iowa (9.5% interest)							x										x								x							
4	Dorr Inc. -- investment in Brazil Iowa Farms, LLC -- An Iowa corporation that has cotton & soybean farmland in Brazil			x																	x												
5	Dorr Inc Farmers State Bank Savings Account Marcus, IA		x																		x												
6	Dorr Inc Microsoft Corp Purchased 6/21/99			x													x							x									
7	Dorr Inc American Intl Group - Sold 5/12/04 Purchased 5/21/01 - No capital gains	x												x							x												
8	Dorr Inc Citigroup Inc Purchased 6/25/99			x													x					x											
9	Dorr Inc General Electric Co Purchased 6/21/99 & 8/25/00			x													x						x										

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1	Dorr Inc Intel Corporation Purchased 8/22/00		x																		x												
2	Dorr Inc Oakmark Fund Purchased 6/4/03			x										x							x												
3	Dorr Inc Chevron Texaco Corp Purchased 6/2/04			x													x					x											
4	Dorr Inc Qualcomm Inc Purchased 4/29/04			x																	x												
5	Dorr Inc - Vanguard Short Term Corp Fund - Purchased 4/30/04 Part Sold 8/11/04, 8/26/04, 9/24/04		x											x								x											
6	Dorr Inc -Chicago Mercantile Exchange Purchased 4/29/04 & 6/8/04 Sold 6/2/04 & 7/6/04	x																		x				x									
7	Dorr Inc Commodity Futures Account (Corn, soybean, and treasury futures.)			x																x					x								
8																																	
9																																	

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1	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust (1/6th of 80% beneficial interest)																																
2	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust 225 acres farmland Cherokee County, Iowa							X																								CCC: $8,549 Grain Sales: $142,831	
3	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Farmers State Bank Checking Account					X													X				X										
4	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Adams Express Co - Sold 3/10/04 Shrs held since 11/9/98 - No cap gains	X												X							X												
5	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Exxon Mobil Corporation Purchased 1/4/02				X												X						X										
6	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Illinois Tool Works Shares held since 11/9/98				X												X						X										
7	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Johnson & Johnson Purchased 12/24/01				X												X						X										
8	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Merck & Co - Sold 4/5/04 Shrs held since 11/9/98 - No cap gains	X															X					X											
9	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Medco Health Solutions - Sold 3/10/04 Shrs held since 8/19/03 - No cap gains	X																			X												

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1	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Pfizer Inc Purchased 1/4/02		x														x					x												
2	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Home Depot Inc Purchased 8/16/02 & 12/2/02			x													x					x												
3	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Northeast Investors Trust Purchased 12/2/02			x										x									x										
4	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Oakmark Equity & Income Fund Purchased 7/31/02		x											x								x											
5	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Oakmark Fund Purchased 7/31/02 & 6/4/03			x										x							x												
6	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Procter & Gamble Co. Purchased 12/12/03			x													x					x											
7	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Texas Instruments Purchased 12/2/02			x																	x												
8	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Vanguard GNMA Fund Purchased 2/4/03				x									x									x										
9	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Vanguard Health Care Fund Purchased 12/9/03			x										x									x										

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1	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Schwab Cash & Money Market Funds				x									x								x											
2	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Chevron Texaco Corporation Purchased 6/2/04			x													x					x											
3	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust First Data Corporation Purchased 3/10/04		x																		x												
4	Melvin G Dorr Residual Trust Chicago Mercantile Exch - Sold 6/2/04 & 7/6/04 - Purchased 3/10/04 & 6/8/04	x																		x					x								
5	Margaret L Dorr QTIP Trust (1/6th of 80% beneficial interest)																																
6	Margaret L Dorr QTIP Trust 77 acres farmland Cherokee County, Iowa					x																										CCC: $6,305 Grain Sales: $21,394	
7	Margaret L Dorr QTIP Trust Farmers State Bank Checking Account			x															x			x											
8	Margaret L Dorr QTIP Trust Adams Express Co - Sold 3/10/04 Shrs held since 11/9/98 - No cap gains	x												x							x												
9	Margaret L Dorr QTIP Trust Schwab Cash & Money Market Funds		x											x							x												

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Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. — BLOCK C

None ☐

#	Assets and Income	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000 *	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1	Margaret L Dorr QTIP Trust Chevron Texaco Corp Purchased 3/10/04			X													X					X											
2	Margaret L Dorr QTIP Trust Citigroup Inc Purchased 3/10/04		X														X					X											
3	Margaret L Dorr QTIP Trust Medtronic Inc Purchased 3/10/04		X																		X												
4	Margaret L Dorr QTIP Trust Microsoft Corp Purchased 7/1/04		X														X						X										
5	Margaret L Dorr QTIP Trust Washington Mutual Inc Purchased 3/10/04		X														X					X											
6																																	
7																																	
8																																	
9																																	

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categ

Prior Editions Cannot be Used.

SF 278 (Rev. 03/2000)
5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Reporting Individual's Name: DORR, Thomas C.

SCHEDULE C

Page Number

Part I: Liabilities

Report liabilities over $10,000 owed to any one creditor at any time during the reporting period by you, your spouse, or dependent children. Check the highest amount owed during the reporting period. **Exclude** a mortgage on your personal residence unless it is rented out; loans secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances; and liabilities owed to certain relatives listed in instructions. See instructions for revolving charge accounts.

None ☐

	Creditors (Name and Address)	Type of Liability	Date Incurred	Interest Rate	Term if applicable	$10,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over
Examples:	First District Bank, Washington, DC	Mortgage on rental property, Delaware	1991	8%	25 yrs.			x								
	John Jones, 123 J St., Washington, DC	Promissory note	1999	10 %	on demand					x						
1	Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. Creditor: Farmers State Bank, Marcus, Iowa	Operating note - paid 9/04	2003	5.50%	1 yr		x									
2	Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. Creditor: Farmers State Bank, Marcus, Iowa	Operating note paid 3/16/2005	2004	5.75%	1 yr		x									
3	Dorrs North Pork, LLC Creditor: Northwestern State Bank, Orange City, IA	Mortgage on hog buildings	1995	5.75%	10 yrs			x								
4	Thomas C. Dorr Creditor: Farmers State Bank, Marcus, Iowa	Mortgage on farmland paid 3/10/2005	2002	6.00%	3 yrs				x							
5	Thomas C. Dorr Creditor: Northwestern State Bank, Orange City, IA	Mortgage on farmland	2004	5.25%	2 yrs				x							

* This category applies only if the liability is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the liability is that of the filer or a joint liability of the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories, as appropriate.

Part II: Agreements or Arrangements

Report your agreements or arrangements for: continuing participation in an employee benefit plan (e.g. 401k, deferred compensation); (2) continuation payment by a former employer (including severance payments); (3) leaves of absence; and (4) future employment. See instructions regarding the reporting of negotiations for any of these arrangements or benefits

None ☒

	Status and Terms of any Agreement or Arrangement	Parties	Date
Example:	Pursuant to partnership agreement, will receive lump sum payment of capital account & partnership share calculated on service performed through 1/00.	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	7/85
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Reporting Individual's Name: DORR, Thomas C.

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None ☐

	Creditors (Name and Address)	Type of Liability	Date Incurred	Interest Rate	Term if applicable	$10,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000
Examples:	First District Bank, Washington, DC	Mortgage on rental property, Delaware	1991	8%	25 yrs.			x								
	John Jones, 123 J St., Washington, DC	Promissory note	1999	10 %	on demand					x						
1	Thomas C. Dorr Creditor: Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co., Marcus, IA	Mortgage on farmland - paid	1996	6.00%	On Demand	x										
2	Thomas C. Dorr Creditor: Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co., Marcus, IA	Mortgage on building site - paid	1992	6.00%	On Demand	x										
3	Thomas C. Dorr Creditor: Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co., Marcus, IA	Various Operating Notes - paid	1995	6.00%	On Demand				x							
4	Thomas C. Dorr Creditor: Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co., Marcus, IA	Mortgage on farmland - paid	1995	5.00%	On Demand		x									
5	Thomas C. Dorr Creditor: Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co., Marcus, IA	Mortgage on farmland - paid	1997	6.00%	On Demand			x								

* This category applies only if the liability is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the liability is that of the filer or a joint liability of the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories, as appropriate.

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None ☐

	Status and Terms of any Agreement or Arrangement	Parties	Date
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Reporting Individual's Name: DORR, Thomas C.

SCHEDULE C

Page Number

Part I: Liabilities

Report liabilities over $10,000 owed to any one creditor at any time during the reporting period by you, your spouse, or dependent children. Check the highest amount owed during the reporting period. **Exclude** a mortgage on your personal residence unless it is rented out; loans secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances; and liabilities owed to certain relatives listed in instructions. See instructions for revolving charge accounts.

None ☐

	Creditors (Name and Address)	Type of Liability	Date Incurred	Interest Rate	Term if applicable	$10,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000
Examples:	First District Bank, Washington, DC	Mortgage on rental property, Delaware	1991	8%	25 yrs.			x								
	John Jones, 123 J St., Washington, DC	Promissory note	1999	10 %	on demand					x						
1	Thomas C. Dorr Creditor: Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co., Marcus, IA	Mortgage on farmland - paid	1990	6.00%	On Demand		x									
2																
3																
4																
5																

Category of Amount or Value (x)

* This category applies only if the liability is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the liability is that of the filer or a joint liability of the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories, as appropriate.

Part II: Agreements or Arrangements

Report your agreements or arrangements for: continuing participation in an employee benefit plan (e.g. 401k, deferred compensation); (2) continuation payment by a former employer (including severance payments); (3) leaves of absence; and (4) future employment. See instructions regarding the reporting of negotiations for any of these arrangements or benefits.

None ☐

	Status and Terms of any Agreement or Arrangement	Parties	Date
Example:	Pursuant to partnership agreement, will receive lump sum payment of capital account & partnership share calculated on service performed through 1/00.	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	7/85
1			
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U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Reporting Individual's Name: DORR, Thomas C.

SCHEDULE D

Page Number

Part I: Positions Held Outside U.S. Government

Report any positions held during the applicable reporting period, whether compensated or not. Positions include but are not limited to those of an officer, director, trustee, general partner, proprietor, representative, employee, or consultant of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise or any non-profit organization or educational institution. **Exclude** positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political entities and those solely of an honorary nature.

None [X]

	Organization (*Name and Address*)	Type of Organization	Position Held	From (Mo., Yr.)	To (Mo., Yr.)
Examples:	Nat'l Assn. of Rock Collectors, NY, NY	Non-profit education	President	6/92	Present
	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	Law firm	Partner	7/85	1/00
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Part II: Compensation In Excess Of $5,000 Paid by One Source

Report sources of more than $5,000 compensation received by you or your business affiliation for services provided directly by you during any one year of the reporting period. This includes the names of clients and customers of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise, or any other non-profit organization when you directly provided the services generating a fee or payment of more than $5,000. You need not report the U.S. Government as a source.

Do not complete this part if you are an Incumbent, Termination Filer, or Vice Presidential or Presidential Candidate

None [X]

	Source (*Name and Address*)	Brief Description of Duties
Examples:	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	Legal services
	Metro University (client of Doe Jones & Smith), Moneytown, State	Legal services in connection with university construction
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Prior Editions Cannot Be Used.

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of June 6, 2002, regarding the nomination of Tom Dorr as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. The letter expresses the Committee on Agriculture's interest in having the Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) conduct a year-end review of the Harold and Melvin Dorr Trusts for each of the years 1988 through 1993. The letter also asks whether the Melvin Dorr Trust and the Harold Dorr Trust have repaid the funds required by the year end reviews for 1994 and 1995.

I asked FSA to conduct the requested review and a copy of the June 25, 2002, report is enclosed. The report also provides the information that you have requested regarding the status of the refund payments. I note that the last sentence of the first full paragraph on the second page of the report contains a typographical error regarding the dates of the requested farm records. While the sentence reads "from the years 1998 through 1993," it should read "from the years 1988 through 1993."

I hope and trust that this information will enable you and the Committee to finally move forward on Mr. Dorr's nomination, as promised in your June 6 letter.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Veneman
Secretary

Enclosure

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Farm Service Agency

Iowa State FSA Office
10600 Buena Vista Court
Des Moines, IA 50322-3732

(515) 254-1540

FAX: (515) 254-1573

June 25, 2002
Reply to: Production Adjustment

TO: James Little, Administrator FSA

FROM: Steve Phillips, Iowa State FSA Office Steve Phillips

SUBJECT: Review of Dorr Trusts Records

This memorandum is to suminarize recent reviews of the payment eligibility for 2 Dorr trusts for the years 1988 through 1993.

I had the Cherokee County CED, Michael Houston, review and copy available records for the Melvin G Dorr Family Irrevocable Trust (MG Dorr Trust) and the Harold E Dorr Family Irrevocable Trust (HE Dorr Trust) for the years 1988 through 1993. I reviewed those records with the following conclusions:

- In each of those years, each trust had one farm that was participating in the Price Support / Production Adjustment Program. The records available generally include the CCC-477 Contract, The ASCS-578 Report of Acreage, The ASCS-156 Farm Record, The ASCS-476 Notice of Bases and Yields, and some record of payments made, in most cases a copy of the actual payment statement. The notable exception is the 1988 and 1989 records for the HE Dorr Trust farm. In those 2 years the only available record is the Report of Acreage.
  I have summarized the payments and shares in an attached excel work sheet.

- The FSA records for those years show the Trusts were conducting the respective farming operations as owner operator with the Trusts having 100% interest in the crops and farm payments, the same as they were reported to FSA in 1994 and 1995. The end-of-year reviews for 1994 and 1995 revealed that the income and expenses from the Trusts farms were actually shared 50/50 with Dorrs Pine Grove Farms, Inc. FSA determined that the trusts had violated the shares provisions or the CCC-477 Contracts for those years. The Melvin Dorr Trust refunded that money after a review in 1997.

  1994 and 1995 end-of-year reviews were conducted on the Harold Dorr Trust in late 2001 at the direction of your Office. This trust was also determined to have violated the shares provision of the CCC-477 for those years. The Harold Dorr Trust has stated in a letter, dated June 25, 2002, it's intent is to refund those payments by July 5, 2002.

- FSA files contain no actual records from the Dorr farming operations for us to determine how these operations were actually conducted in 1988 through 1993. It is unlikely that many of the actual farm records are still available, as this 9 to 14 years in the past. FSA has no requirement that farmers retain these records for this length of time.

- The H. E. Dorr Trust also received a share of Payments in 1990 through 1993 on a larger farm

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and lender

on which Dorrs Pine Grove Farm was the operator. The farm number changed from year to year due to farm reconstitutions, but generally it contained 1300 to 1400 acres of cropland owned by various Dorr family members and entities. Although we have reports of acreage and CCC-477 Contracts for those farms, I am unable to determine if there is a potential problem with the payments on that larger farm. The Report of Acreage shows, that all crops on all acres, regardless of who owned the land, were shared in the same manner as program payments were shared on the farm. I believe the County office took a short cut in recording all shares this way, rather than requiring the operator to specify how crops in each field were shared. Since the report of acreage did not show how producers on individual tracts of land shared in the crops, I am unable to determine if there is a potential problem with the payments on this land.

You informed this Office that Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee, requested FSA conduct payment limitation/eligibility End-of Year reviews for the years 1988 through 1993. The Cherokee County Office initiated those reviews with letters to Thomas Dorr, representetive of the Melvin Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust, and Donald Dorr, representative for the Harold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust. Those letters were sent by regular mail and via FAX on June 24, 2002. The letters requested that the Trusts provide actual farm records from the years 1998 through 1993 including, but not limited to, records of crop and machinery expenses, farm leases, crop income, crop insurance records, etc..

Both Thomas Dorr and Donald Dorr responded via FAX to the Cherokee County FSA Office on June 25, 2002 stating that farm records for those years are no longer available. Donald Dorr stated that in 1999 all records for the Harold Dorr Trust, over 5 years old, were destroyed. Thomas Dorr stated he is unable to comply with this request. He states "We would comply, if sufficient information were available to fairly and accurately show how our operations were conducted, but we are unable to do so."

In the absence of actual farm records from the Trusts, this Office believes it is not possible for FSA to come to any valid conclusion regarding the eligibility of the Trusts for deficiency payments that were paid in the years 1998 through 1993. Producers are not required to maintain records for this length of time and we suggest that this review be concluded. Please advise this Office how to proceed.

Harrold Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust (H E Dorr Trust)

	farm number	acreage share	CCC-477 share	payments	comments
1988	2317	100%	n/a	n/a	Dorrs PinGrove Farms, Inc. listed as operator, Contract and payment documents no longer available, but all crop to trust
1989	2317	100%	n/a	n/a	Dorrs PinGrove Farms, Inc. listed as operator, Contract and payment documents no longer available, but all crop to trust
1990	2317	100%	100%	$9,700.27	Dorrs PinGrove Farms, Inc. listed as operator, but all crops and payments to trust
1991	2317	100%	100%	$6,850	Dorr H E Irrv Trust is owner/operator, all crops and payments to trust
1992	2317	100%	100%	$12,599	Dorr H E Irrv Trust is owner/operator, all crops and payments to trust
1993	2317	100%	100%	$5,676	Dorr H E Irrv Trust is owner/operator, all crops and payments to trust

Melvin G Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust (M G Dorr Trust)

1988	2042	100%	100%	$4,790	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments
1989	2042	100%	100%	$6,992	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments
1990	2042	100%	100%	$6,122.08	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments
1991	2823	100%	100%	$6,119	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments
1992	2823	100%	100%	$11,354	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments
1993	2823	100%	100%	$4,623	Trust is owner operator and receives all crops and payments

USDA

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Services

Farm Service
Agency

Cherokee County
FSA Office
Box 455
Cherokee, IA 51012-
0455

Phone:
(712) 225-5717
FAX:
(712) 225-6090

June 5, 2002

Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust
% Donald J. Dorr
1109 Candlewood Drive
League City, TX 77573-3194

Dear Mr. Dorr:

This responds to your letter of April 19, 2002. Farm Service Agency's authority to compromise debt is based on Regulations at 7-CFR, Part 1403.15 and Farm Service Agency procedure in Handbook 58-FL. Those regulations give Farm Service Agency authority to compromise debt either because a debtor is financially unable to pay the debt or Farm Service Agency has no reasonable prospect to enforce collection of the debt.

If you believe that the Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust qualifies for debt compromise under these regulations, you must provide 2 years of financial records and tax returns per for consideration by Farm Service Agency. We have enclosed Farm Service Agency Handbook procedure, which contains information on required records, and guidelines Farm Service Agency will use to consider any compromises offer.

By letter dated 01-31-2002, we notified you that the County Committee had determined that you owe $17,151.87 plus interest as applicable. See attached Statement of Outstanding Debt. The debt is past due. Late payment interest will accrue on your debt at the rate of 5.500% per annum from the date of this letter until the debt is paid or otherwise resolved. FSA will waive late payment interest on your debt (or any part of your debt) that is paid in the next 30 days.

Please pay your debt now. Make your check payable to "Commodity Credit Corporation" and send it to this office at the above address. If you are unable to pay the debt in full now, you may arrange to establish a mutually acceptable repayment agreement and pay in installments. If payment in full or arrangements to pay the debt in full are not made within 60 days from the date of this letter, the debt will be sent to the Kansas City Management Office for referral to the Department of Treasury. The Department of Treasury will collect the debt by offset of qualified disbursements and refunds, including any federal income tax refund to which you may be entitled.

Because this debt may be collected by offset of your federal income tax refunds, you may present, within 60 days from the date of this letter, evidence that all or part of the debt is not past due or legally enforceable. To do so, submit to this office a written explanation of your position that the debt or part of the debt is not past due or legally enforceable, and include documentation to support your position.

Under Federal law and regulations, the following additional actions may be taken by USDA and the Department of Treasury to collect delinquent debts:

- Assessment of interest, administrative costs, and penalties
- Administrative garnishment of wages
- Offset of CCC and FSA payments
- Reporting the debt to consumer and commercial credit bureaus
- Referral of the debt to private collection agencies and Treasury-designated collection centers
- Referral of the debt to agency counsel or the Department of Justice for litigation
- Reporting the debt to the Internal Revenue Service if the debt, or any portion of the debt, is discharged

Our records do not indicate that you have filed for bankruptcy protection under Title 11 of the United States Code. If you have filed for bankruptcy, please notify your local USDA Service Center as soon as possible so that we may update our records to reflect the bankruptcy, and proceed to resolve this debt in accordance with bankruptcy procedures.

Please contact this office at #712-225-5717 if you have any questions. We want to work with you to resolve this debt and to discuss repayments options, if necessary. If this debt is not resolved within 60 days from the date of this letter, the Kansas City Management Office will take additional collection action.

Please disregard this letter if you have already paid this debt.

Sincerely

Michael W. Houston
County Executive Director

FAX

Date 6/23/02

Number of pages including cover sheet 2

TO: Cherokee County FSA Office
Attn: Michael W. Houston
PO Box 455
Cherokee, IA 51012

Phone (712) 225-5717
Fax Phone (712) 225-6090

FROM: Don Dorr
1109 Candlewood Drive
League City, TX 77573

Phone (281) 334-8399
Fax Phone (413) 832-8522

CC:

REMARKS: ☐ Urgent ☒ For your review ☐ Reply ASAP ☐ Please Comment

Dear Michael:

The following letter is our response to your request for documents and information to perform payment limitation and payment eligibility end-of-year reviews for the years 1988 through 1993 for The Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust's farming operations. As it indicates, the documents you requested no longer exist, having been destroyed when we cleaned out Belva Dorr's house in 1999.

Also, concerning your request for payments as a result of the 1994 end-of-year review, it is our present intent to submit those payments by the July 5, 2002 due date along with a cover letter disclaiming any wrongdoing or misrepresentation to the FSA. (The Trust just can't afford to litigate against a government with an unlimited checkbook and we need to put this matter to rest.)

Sincerely yours,

Donald J. Dorr, Trustee
The Harold E. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust

RECEIVED
JUN 25 2002
CHEROKEE CO. FSA
CHEROKEE, IOWA

June 25, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE AND REGULAR MAIL
712-225-6090

Mr. Houston and Members of the Committee,
Cherokee County FSA Office
Attn: Michael W. Houston, CED
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, IA 51012

Dear Mr. Houston and Members of the Committee,

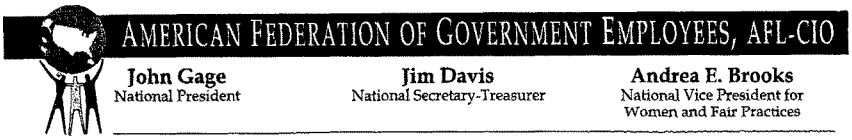
We acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 24, 2002, advising us that Senator Tom Harkin has requested that you perform end-of-year reviews of our operations for the years 1988 through 1993. While we have no fixed time period beyond five years that we maintain records of our annual operations, it is our practice to discard such information that will not be required for IRS or normal FSA reviews after seven or eight years.

This letter from your office requests materials going back from ten to fifteen years. We are unable to comply with your request. We would comply, if sufficient information were available to us to fairly and accurately show how our operations were conducted, but we are unable to do so.

Knowing that your office is only required to keep records for no more than five years, we hope you understand our practices in this regard.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Dorr
Trustee
M.G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust



John Gage
National President

Jim Davis
National Secretary-Treasurer

Andrea E. Brooks
National Vice President for
Women and Fair Practices

8d/204136

April 26, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
U.S. Senate
SR-328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Chambliss:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, I am writing to express our strong opposition to President Bush's nomination of Thomas Dorr to be Undersecretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Since June 2001, AFGE has questioned Mr. Dorr's views regarding the desirability of extremely large corporate farms. His 225,000-acre farm vision causes us to seriously question his suitability for a USDA position in which he would become responsible for economic development programs that are intended to improve the financial viability of small- and medium-sized family farms. Rather than advocating a supra-corporate farm vision that accepts the demise of small-and medium-sized farms, the new USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development should be someone who seeks new and creative ways to ensure that farms of **all sizes** can flourish and prosper.

AFGE also has questioned the remarks made by Mr. Dorr in which he suggested a link between the economic success of three Iowa farm counties and their lack of ethnic and religious diversity. Given USDA's historic bias against minority farmers, it is stunning that the proposed nominee would express the belief that ethnic diversity and religious diversity are impediments to rural economic development. Indeed, Mr. Dorr's beliefs on diversity and development cause us to seriously question whether he has the requisite sensitivity to handle a USDA position in which he would be responsible for economic development programs in some of the nation's most ethnically diverse rural areas.

This is the third time President Bush has nominated Mr. Dorr to be Undersecretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After the previous two nominations failed due to widespread grassroots and Senate opposition, President Bush named Mr. Dorr a special USDA advisor

80 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 737-8700 • FAX (202) 639-6490 • www.afge.org

receiving a salary of $141,000. Unfortunately, Mr. Dorr has done nothing during his tenure at the USDA that changes our opposition to his becoming USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development. In fact, President Bush's FY 2006 budget proposes a dismantling of the USDA Rural Development discretionary programs – slashing them by over 35% and transferring these functions to the Department of Commerce.

We fear that President Bush's third nomination of Mr. Dorr demonstrates his Administration's short-sighted vision for rural development, and signals to hard-working family farmers that only huge corporate farms will be supported by USDA policies and programs.

In conclusion, we at AFGE urge you to strongly oppose Mr. Dorr's nomination as USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development. He simply does not have the requisite suitability and sensitivity to address the broad range of economic development issues facing rural America, particularly those issues relating to (1) small-and medium-sized farms and (2) ethnic and religious diversity.

Sincerely,

Beth Moten
Legislative and Political Director

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0100

April 12, 2002

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
731 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Last month your Committee held a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Tom Dorr for Under Secretary for Rural Development and Nancy Bryson for General Counsel at the Department of Agriculture. We very much appreciate the prompt action you took to confirm Nancy Bryson as General Counsel. However, we are disappointed that a vote was not taken on the confirmation of Mr. Dorr.

Tom Dorr withstood the rigors of the Agriculture Committee hearing with grace and poise. He responded to the Committee questionnaire, met individually with Committee members, responded to all questions posed during his five-hour hearing and fully responded to written questions submitted after the hearing.

We appreciated your cooperation in allowing witnesses from Iowa, who have known Tom the longest and worked with him in a variety of projects, testify on his behalf. These witnesses eloquently described the man that President Bush and I want on our team at USDA.

President Bush nominated Mr. Dorr nearly one year ago. As with all of USDA's mission areas, a key responsibility of the Rural Development Under Secretary is to guide development and implementation of the President's policies and programs that are vital to rural citizens, communities and economies throughout America. The Under Secretary for Rural Development is the lynchpin in enhancing federal-state-local partnerships to develop new initiatives, such as those involving bio-energy and telecommunications, and in making the long-term commitments necessary to ensure sustained success of these new ventures.

I know how strongly you and other Committee members are committed to strengthening America's rural development programs. It is important that this position be filled so strong leadership can be provided for initiatives that would spur growth and development in rural communities throughout the nation. Tom Dorr should be given the opportunity to provide that stewardship and I urge the Committee to act on his nomination.

We appreciate the cooperative relationship we have with the Committee and look forward to continuing to work with you on issues of importance to our nation's agricultural producers, consumers and rural residents.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Veneman

IMPACT SEVEN, INC.

A WISCONSIN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

147 Lake Almena Dr.• Almena, WI 54805• 715-357-3334• FAX 715-357-6233• e-mail: impact@impactseven.org

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

April 15, 2005

Senator Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Thomas C. Dorr

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Impact Seven, Inc. has a direct stake in improving economic opportunities for the rural residents of Wisconsin. We work with small, rural communities and target the very low and low income residents of Wisconsin. So that we can continue to serve these communities and residents, it is imperative that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. We need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

William Bay

William Bay, President

Recipient of Wisconsin's First New Markets Tax Credits

Sheldon Chamber & Development Corporation
P.O. Box 276
Sheldon, IA 51201
Phone: 712-324-2813 Fax: 712-324- 4602

Email Address: mgaul@sheldoniowa.com
Website: www.sheldoniowa.com

04/21/05

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 328 A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chambliss;

The purpose of this letter is to express support for Thomas Dorr of Marcus, Iowa to be Under Secretary of Agriculture and to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Rural Development at the U.S.D.A. is a crucial partner for economic development efforts in Iowa and in Sheldon, Iowa in particular. The tools provided by the U.S.D.A. give areas such as ours the opportunity to thrive in a global economy. The community of Sheldon has a unique opportunity with a four lane expressway being completed in the fall of 2006. This corridor will bring much needed additional traffic to our area making Sheldon, Iowa a hub along the expressway.

Mr. Dorr has always been a leader in our area and has contributed to the entire region for many years. He is and would make a great servant to the U.S.D.A. and really bring the rural point of view to the department. I encourage you to select Mr. Dorr for the position and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Gaul
Executive Director
Sheldon Chamber and Development Corporation

cc. The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Mike Johanns

April 21, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Chair
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 328 A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Thomas C. Dorr of Marcus, Iowa to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Mr. Dorr's background as a farmer in Northwest Iowa includes serving on the Iowa Board of Regents, Director of the Corn Growers, and member of the Board of the Federal Reserve of Chicago and this provides a solid base to serve as Under Secretary for Rural Development.

During his leadership as Under Secretary for Rural Development in 2002 we had tremendous progress in Rural Development in Northwest Iowa. It is very important for us in rural Iowa to have this progress continue, and strongly urge support for the nomination.

Respectfully,

Charles Sand, President
Sands of Iowa
Marcus, Iowa

Darrell Downs, Mayor
Marcus, Iowa

Kenneth Ogren, President
Farmers State Bank
Marcus, Iowa

CC
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Mike Johanns

NCFC®

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

April 19, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) strongly supports for the nomination of Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary for Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

NCFC is the national trade association representing America's farmer cooperatives. There are nearly 3,000 farmer cooperatives across the U.S. whose members include a majority of our nation's more than 2 million farmers. They exist for the mutual benefit of their farmer members and provide these members with increased opportunity to improve their income from the marketplace and compete more effectively in the global marketplace. Farmer cooperatives are also a major source of employment, accounting for nearly 300,000 full time and part time jobs.

NCFC believes that Mr. Dorr has a strong background in agriculture and has a firm grasp on the issues facing farmers, their cooperatives, and rural America. His knowledge, leadership and creativity will allow him to be effective in carrying out the programs and policies designed to promote the economic well-being of rural America.

Therefore, NCFC urges the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and the full Senate to act to confirm Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Sincerely,

Jean-Mari Peltier
President & CEO

50 F STREET, NW • SUITE 900 • WASHINGTON, DC • 20001 • 202-626-8700 • fax 202-626-8722 • Web site www.ncfc.org

Serving America's Farmer-Owned Cooperative Businesses Since 1929

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
LOUISIANA STATE CONFERENCE

1755 Nicholson Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Tel: (225) 334-7490
Fax: (225) 334-7491

ERNEST L. JOHNSON, SR., ESQ.
President

BY: FAX AND REGULAR MAIL

May 21, 2005

Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator
724 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

RE: Mr. Thomas C. Dorr
Confirmation as Under Secretary of Rural Development

Dear Senator Landrieu:

As President of the NAACP Louisiana State Conference, I have a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in Louisiana most of which is rural. Our organization work with farmers and small communities throughout the State of Louisiana every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area which is why I am strongly supporting Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs. We understand that in all situations, we all can do more. The minority and rural community suffer the most and thus, require the most. We believe that by supporting Mr. Dorr for the office will do more to improve the rural development outreach effort than to continue the objections to his appointment.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

Ernest

Dr. Ernest L. Johnson
President
NAACP Louisiana State Conference

THE LEGACY CONTINUES...

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
LOUISIANA STATE CONFERENCE

1755 Nicholson Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Tel: (225) 334-7490
Fax: (225) 334-7491

ERNEST L. JOHNSON, SR., ESQ.
President

BY: FAX AND REGULAR MAIL

May 21, 2005

Honorable David Vitter
United States Senator
516 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

RE: Mr. Thomas C. Dorr
Confirmation as Under Secretary of Rural Development

Dear Senator Vitter:

As President of the NAACP Louisiana State Conference, I have a direct stake in improving economic opportunities in Louisiana most of which is rural. Our organization work with farmers and small communities throughout the State of Louisiana every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area which is why I am strongly supporting Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs. We understand that in all situations, we all can do more. The minority and rural community suffer the most and thus, require the most. We believe that by supporting Mr. Dorr for the office will do more to improve the rural development outreach effort than to continue the objections to his appointment.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Ernest L. Johnson
President
NAACP Louisiana State Conference

THE LEGACY CONTINUES...

May 4, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Senator Chambliss,

The **North Carolina Christmas Tree Association** is made up of Christmas tree farmers in the Western Counties of North Carolina. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture and particularly in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up and down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

Patricia B. Gaskin
Chairperson/Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
North Carolina Christmas Tree Association
PO Box 1937
Boone, North Carolina
Telephone: 336/372-4193

577-3 GEORGE WILSON ROAD • P.O. BOX 1937 • BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA 28607
(828) 262-5826 • 1-800-562-8789 • FAX (828) 265-1550

E. THURMAN GASKILL
STATE SENATOR
Assistant Majority Leader
Sixth District
Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock,
Winnebago and Worth Counties
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371
thurman.gaskill@legis.state.ia.us

HOME ADDRESS
1320 Birch Avenue
Corwith, Iowa 50430
Ph: (515) 583-2449
Fax: (515) 583-2547
gaskilltg@comm1net.net

The Senate
State of Iowa
Eighty-first General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

May 12, 2005

REPUBLICAN ASSISTANT LEADER

COMMITTEES

Agriculture
Appropriations
Human Resources
Natural Resources & Environment
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Appropriation Subcommittee, *Co-chair*

The Honorable Senator Saxby Chambliss
Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss,

It is my understanding that consideration of Tom Dorr for the position of Undersecretary of Agriculture for Rural Development is to soon come before the Senate Agriculture Committee. In your position as Chairman of that Committee, I would strongly urge you to support Tom's confirmation in a timely vote.

I have known Tom over a period of 30 years as an innovative leader in many different arenas. He has a diverse background with experience as a family farmer, an agricultural leader in the state, a member of the Iowa Board of Regents, and as a board member of the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago. I have worked with Tom in leadership positions in improving agriculture in both state and federal government projects. I have found him to be an intellectual and a visionary in projecting toward the future. He has worked with state and federal government on agricultural and trade policies for the United States, but also has a strong understanding of world agriculture. Tom has demonstrated that he has the knowledge, skills and ability to accomplish significant change, and move rural America in the right direction.

I feel that Tom Dorr would be a strong asset to the position, and I urge you to support his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Sen. E. Thurman Gaskill

Senator E. Thurman Gaskill
Senate Republican Assistant Leader

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

May 5, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

I would like to express my support for the nomination of Tom Dorr to the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture.

I first met Mr. Dorr several years ago when he presented a check to the Idaho Rural Partnership. During that visit, Mr. Dorr spent the day meeting with many of our rural Idahoans.

I understand that Mr. Dorr comes from a rural background, which gives him an enhanced understanding of the challenges facing rural communities throughout this great nation. As a rural state, we would be pleased to have someone with his level of expertise and experience serve in this important capacity.

I appreciate the opportunity to recommend Mr. Dorr and I encourage you to give him your full consideration.

Sincerely,

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

DK:pn

STATE CAPITOL • BOISE, IDAHO 83720 • (208) 334-2100

HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA
7515 HALCYON SUMMIT DR. - SUITE 200
P.O. BOX 241305
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36124-1305

TELEPHONE
334-834-3006

IN STATE 1-800-745-4222
FAX 334-834-5380

May 10, 2005

Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

Please include the Home Builders Association of Alabama as one of many voices supporting the nomination of Tom Dorr for USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development. We are confident that his experience and dedication to rural America make him an ideal candidate for that position.

Tom Dorr has demonstrated his unyielding commitment to rural housing through programs and directives too numerous to list here and do justice to his exemplary record. The HBAA has watched as Tom Dorr has led rural housing in new and exciting directions. It is with great pleasure that the HBAA endorses Tom Dorr's nomination.

We are keenly aware of the seemingly tumultuous confirmation process that a number of nominees have gone through, including Tom Dorr. We believe that he deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate. We respectfully ask that you do all in your power to see that a vote takes place. We also urge you to support this proven leader to the post of USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Sincerely,

Russell Davis
Executive Vice-President

cc: Chairman Saxby Chambliss
Secretary Mike Johanns
Steve Pelham

HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA
7515 HALCYON SUMMIT DR. - SUITE 200
P.O. BOX 241305
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36124-1305

TELEPHONE
334-834-3006

IN STATE 1-800-745-4222
FAX 334-834-5380

May 10, 2005

Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

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Sincerely,

Russell Davis
Executive Vice-President

cc: Chairman Saxby Chambliss
Secretary Mike Johanns
Steve Pelham

Mort ge Bankers Association
OF ALABAMA, INC.

Post Office Box 230425
Montgomery AL 36123
mba@slatenlaw.com

(334) 260-8197
Fax: (334) 396-8880
Internet: www.mbaal.org

May 25, 2005

Senator Jeff Sessions
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

We work with purchasers of homes and land in rural communities and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive. In addition, he has pushed the Department to provide more creative outreach to minorities in order to insure their full participation in USDA Rural Development programs.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

Barbara Brown

Barbara Brown
President, MBAA

CC Secretary Mike Johanns
Chairman Saxby Chambliss
Steve Pelham

Mort ge Bankers Association
OF ALABAMA, INC.

Post Office Box 230425
Montgomery AL 36123
mba@slatenlaw.com

(334) 260-8197
Fax: (334) 396-8880
Internet: www.mbaal.org

May 25, 2005

Senator Jeff Sessions
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

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The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Our members need Tom Dorr's leadership at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we <u>strongly urge</u> you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

Barbara Brown

Barbara Brown
President, MBAA

CC Secretary Mike Johanns
Chairman Saxby Chambliss
Steve Pelham

Mortgage Bankers Association
OF ALABAMA, INC.

Post Office Box 230425
Montgomery AL 36123
mba@slatenlaw.com

(334) 260-8197
Fax: (334) 396-8880
Internet: www.mbaal.org

May 25, 2005

Senator Richard Shelby
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

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Sincerely,

Barbara Brown

Barbara Brown
President, MBAA

CC Secretary Mike Johanns
Chairman Saxby Chambliss
Steve Pelham

3906 Wake Forest Rd., Ste. 102, Raleigh, NC 27609
Phone: 919.790-7099 -- Fax: 919.877.0940

April 27, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Committee on Agriculture Chairman
United States Senate
C2 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

We work with farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

Gloria Richardson

Gloria Richardson
President

NORTH CAROLINA COTTON PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
103 TRIANGLE COURT PO BOX 656 NASHVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 27856-0656
TELEPHONE: (252) 459-3130 FAX: (252) 459-7396
WWW.NCCOTTON.ORG

April 27, 2005

Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chamblis,

The NC Cotton Producers Association work with cotton farmers and small communities every day and understand their needs and challenges. It is critical that we have strong and creative leadership at the Department of Agriculture in the Rural Development Mission Area. We strongly support Thomas C. Dorr for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Mr. Dorr has proven that he has the passion, skill and experience necessary to lead USDA's Rural Development efforts. Mr. Dorr has been a leading advocate for value added and sustainable agriculture that has benefited small family farmers and offered them an opportunity to remain competitive.

The confirmation of Mr. Dorr will provide strong leadership to help give these vital programs the greatest possibility of success and help insure their continued funding in a very tight budget period. **Rural America needs Tom Dorr's vision at USDA Rural Development. Tom Dorr deserves an up or down vote in the United States Senate and we strongly urge you to vote for his confirmation.**

Sincerely,

Billy

Billy Carter
Executive Vice President

CC/ Taylor Slade

TAYLOR SLADE
PRESIDENT
WILLIAMSTON

DAVID DUNLOW
VICE-PRESIDENT
GASTON

JAY BRINN
SECRETARY
BELHAVEN

RICK HOLDER
TREASURER
KINSTON

BILLY CARTER
EXEC. VICE-PRESIDENT
NASHVILLE

04/28/2005 09:32AM

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0100

April 12, 2002

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
731 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Last month your Committee held a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Tom Dorr for Under Secretary for Rural Development and Nancy Bryson for General Counsel at the Department of Agriculture. We very much appreciate the prompt action you took to confirm Nancy Bryson as General Counsel. However, we are disappointed that a vote was not taken on the confirmation of Mr. Dorr.

Tom Dorr withstood the rigors of the Agriculture Committee hearing with grace and poise. He responded to the Committee questionnaire, met individually with Committee members, responded to all questions posed during his five-hour hearing and fully responded to written questions submitted after the hearing.

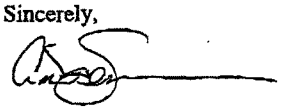
We appreciated your cooperation in allowing witnesses from Iowa, who have known Tom the longest and worked with him in a variety of projects, testify on his behalf. These witnesses eloquently described the man that President Bush and I want on our team at USDA.

President Bush nominated Mr. Dorr nearly one year ago. As with all of USDA's mission areas, a key responsibility of the Rural Development Under Secretary is to guide development and implementation of the President's policies and programs that are vital to rural citizens, communities and economies throughout America. The Under Secretary for Rural Development is the lynchpin in enhancing federal-state-local partnerships to develop new initiatives, such as those involving bio-energy and telecommunications, and in making the long-term commitments necessary to ensure sustained success of these new ventures.

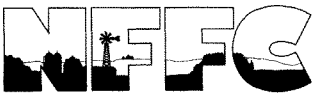
I know how strongly you and other Committee members are committed to strengthening America's rural development programs. It is important that this position be filled so strong leadership can be provided for initiatives that would spur growth and development in rural communities throughout the nation. Tom Dorr should be given the opportunity to provide that stewardship and I urge the Committee to act on his nomination.

We appreciate the cooperative relationship we have with the Committee and look forward to continuing to work with you on issues of importance to our nation's agricultural producers, consumers and rural residents.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Veneman



National Family Farm Coalition

110 Maryland Avenue, NE, Suite 307 • Washington, DC 20002 • (202) 543-5675 • Fax: (202) 543-0978 • Email: nffc@nffc.net

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chair
Senate Agriculture Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

April 26, 2005

Dear Senator Chambliss:

On the eve of the Senate Agriculture Hearing on the nomination of Thomas Dorr to be the Undersecretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Family Farm Coalition writes to strongly oppose his nomination.

Since June 2001, the National Family Farm Coalition has protested Thomas Dorr's support of corporate agriculture, his insensitive remarks on ethnic and religious diversity, and his violation of farm program payment limitations. Due to widespread grassroots and Senate opposition, the Dorr nomination was stalled in 2002, and again in 2003.

After Mr. Dorr's nomination attempts failed, President Bush disregarded the will of the Senate and named him a special USDA advisor receiving a salary of $141,000. Mr. Dorr has done nothing during his tenure at the USDA that changes our opposition. In fact, the FY 2006 budget submitted to the Congress in February 2005 reflects a dismantling of the USDA Rural Development discretionary programs proposing to slash them by over 35% and transfer these functions to the Department of Commerce.

We fear that President Bush's re-nomination of Thomas Dorr demonstrates his Administration's short-sighted vision for rural development. It signals to hard working family farmers that only huge corporate farms will be supported by USDA policies and programs.

Because recent farm programs have severely diminished farm income from marketing receipts, we believe USDA should place much-needed resources in the development of rural communities and support a family farm system of agriculture that promotes food security. There is a critical shortage of resources for family farmers and rural communities.

recycled paper

The USDA Department of Rural Development should:

1. Increase support for value added grants for processing and packaging of agricultural products to limited resource farmers and their cooperatives.

2. Increase the access to and the amount of funding for the affordable rural housing program.

3. Appoint more minority farmers to various boards, committees and other positions within the USDA.

4. Allocate more resources for community-based development.

5. Assist in developing marketing opportunities for small and limited resource farmers, including farmers markets, WIC coupons, re-pack operations, brokerages and others.

6. Make rural loans and grants to small cooperatives, towns and rural communities for programs, community facilities and development projects.

7. Demand full funding for renewable energy on-farm initiatives.

On behalf of family farmers, we feel it is not in our nation's best interest to have an Undersecretary for Rural Development who has admitted misuse of U.S. government programs, antagonized those he would be charged to serve, and envisions a structure of agriculture that would further depopulate our rural communities.

We urge the Senate Agriculture Committee to reject the nomination of Thomas Dorr to this important position.

Sincerely,

George Naylor
President, National Family Farm Coalition

Cc: Senate Agriculture Committee

P.O. Box 1623 Bloomington, IL 61702-1623 Ph. (309) 557-3257 FAX (309) 827-0916

May 12, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC. 20510-1007

Dear Senator Chambliss:

I am writing you in support of Tom Dorr of Marcus, Iowa as the Under Secretary for Rural Development at the US Department of Agriculture. Mr. Dorr's nomination is currently before your committee and I implore an expedient confirmation process for the sake of rural America.

Mr. Dorr's nomination has previously been before your committee; however, a confirmation vote on the Senate floor was later blocked. USDA's Rural Development is tasked with providing many services to the American people. Without Senate-confirmed leadership in this area, opportunities to develop future and currently available services are passing rural America by. Your commitment to rural America underscores the urgency of this confirmation.

As a successful family farmer in Iowa, Mr. Dorr brings a wealth of invaluable experience and knowledge to the USDA. As a former member of the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank's Board of Directors, Mr. Dorr possesses the appropriate and needed banking expertise to oversee the USDA's $80 billion in outstanding loans to rural communities. Mr. Dorr has demonstrated his leadership and vision during his time at USDA. Mr. Dorr's intelligence, character, and vision will be an untold asset to America's rural communities.

I urge your immediate attention and support for this confirmation. Thank you for your attention and concern on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Roger Sy, President

cc: Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Barack Obama

PRINTED WITH CORN-BASED INK ON RECYCLED PAPER

April 25, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Committee on Agriculture Chairman
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

As an organization of family farmers, the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association and its farmer supporters need the United States Senate to confirm Thomas C. Dorr as USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development.

I have known Tom Dorr for nearly ten years through our connections as members of Farm Foundation's Bennett Agricultural Round Table. I know him to be a person of high intellect, high ability and high integrity. Through his "hands-on" experience as a working farmer, Tom Dorr has the background and know-how necessary to advance programs so vital to farm and non-farm rural citizens of our nation. His life's experiences have prepared him with all the vital skills necessary to lead this most important program at USDA.

As a leader of my state's soybean commodity organization I recognize the importance of Tom Dorr's efforts to develop value-added cooperative marketing programs that will help farmers retain more of the profitability of their farming enterprises, and help them survive in the highly competitive world markets that we currently face.

We strongly urge you to use all your influence to see that Thomas C. Dorr is expeditiously confirmed as USDA Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development so he can move the many programs forward that are so vital to all rural citizens.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Wilder

James F. Wilder
Executive Vice President

JFW:lgr

211 Six Forks Road, Suite 102, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609, Phone: 919-839-5700, Fax: 919-839-5775

Farm payment scenario

	Target price	Loan rate	Max. def. payment	Act. Def. payment
1989	$2.84	$2.06	$66,905	$49,750
1990	$2.75	$1.96	$48,795	$31,500
1991	$2.75	$1.89	$58,731	$28,000
1992	$2.75	$2.01	$49,671	$49,000
1993	$2.75	$1.99	$43,428	$16,000
1994	$2.75	$1.99	$43,333	$32,500

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

April 27, 2005

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR HARKIN

THOMAS C. DORR

Question: In a letter dated May 8, 1996, you were informed that your farming operation, Dorr's Pine Grove Farm, Co., had been selected for a 1995 farm program payment limitation and payment eligibility end-of-year review. You were informed that the farming operation would be reviewed to determine whether the farming operation was carried out in 1995 as represented on the CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review. You were asked to provide documents and information and were further informed that if you failed to provide the requested information within 30 days of the date of the letter that you would be determined not "actively engaged in farming for the 1995 crop year." In a letter dated June 1, 1996, you requested a 30-day extension of the initial deadline, citing weather and family concerns. In a letter dated June 7, 1996, Michael W. Houston the County Executive Director informed you that the Cherokee County Committee approved your request to July 8, 1996 to provide additional information requested by the End of Year Review Committee. The only further information available with regard to this end-of-year review is a handwritten notation in the file that reads: "Rec'd phone call from T. Dorr on 8-3-96 at home. Dorr plans on completing requested info., but needs more time. MWH" Please explain in detail what information and documentation you provided the county committee in response to this formal request, when you provided the requested information, and how this matter was resolved. If it was not resolved, why did you not provide the requested information to the Farm Service Agency?

RESPONSE: Minority Counsel raised this issue during a meeting with Senate Agriculture Committee staff on April 19, 2005. Prior to that meeting, I had no recollection of the FSA request or of the subsequent communication with the Cherokee County FSA Office, which you referenced in your question. I do not recall whether or not I provided additional information to FSA in this matter. If the requested information was not provided to FSA, it was an oversight on my part. I have no knowledge as to why FSA did not follow up.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR HARKIN

THOMAS C. DORR

Question: 1) Please list all entities and individuals for which you had signing authority for documents at the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office for the crop years 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992. 2) For each entity or individual identified in question 1, please indicate whether the entity or individual was listed on the Farm Operating Plan for Payment Limitation Review (CCC-502C) for Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. 3) For each entity or individual identified in question 2 as not listed on the CCC-502C, please indicate whether Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. provided custom farming services for the entity or individual. 4) For each custom farming arrangement identified in question 3 above, state the custom farming services provided and the fees paid to Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. in total and on a per acre basis.

RESPONSE: The information and documents requested are from 13 to 17 years old. The FSA did not require us to keep records for extended periods of time, and our office had limited storage capacity. It was our standard practice to remove old information and free up additional space. The records for 1988 through 1992 would have been removed during that routine process.

Also, it is my understanding that you asked Secretary Veneman to conduct a review of the records for 1988 through 1992. Based upon your request, Secretary Veneman directed the Iowa State FSA Office to conduct a thorough review of the available records for the years in question. Secretary Veneman provided you with a copy of the FSA report on June 27, 2002.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR HARKIN

THOMAS C. DORR

Question: In item 3 of the Financial Data and Conflict of Interest (Public) that you submitted to the Committee, you indicate that "Dorr Inc, is a family farm corporation founded in the late 1940's. I own 12% of the stock." However, in your letter dated April 25, 2005, to Mr. John C. Surina, you state, "Dorr, Inc, is a family corporation, in which I have a 10% ownership interest." and on the Public Financial Disclosure Report (SF278) dated March 17, 2005, page 11, item 3 you indicate a 9.5% interest in Dorr, Inc. No person may receive farm program payments from more than three entities in which the person holds substantial beneficial interest, generally 10 percent or more. For the years that you received farm program benefits through Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. and the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust, did you also receive benefits through Dorr, Inc.? If so, did you hold a substantial beneficial interest in Dorr, Inc. at that time? If you did hold a substantial beneficial interest in Dorr, Inc. at the same time that you received farm program benefits through Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Co. and the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust, did you receive federal farm program benefits through any other entity in which you held a substantial beneficial interest?

RESPONSE: During the years I received farm program benefits through Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Company and the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust, I did receive benefits through Dorr Inc.

Until January 24, 2005, my equity position in Dorr Inc., did not exceed 9.53-percent. On or about January 24, 2005, Dorr Inc., at the request of one shareholder, repurchased that shareholder's outstanding stock. The effect of this was to increase my equity position in Dorr, Inc., to 10.12-percent in January 2005.

I did not hold a "substantial beneficial interest" in Dorr Inc., during any time that I received program benefits as a beneficiary or stockholder through the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust, Dorr's Pine Grove Farm Company or personally.

I received no benefits at any time through any other entity.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR HARKIN

THOMAS C. DORR

Question: In your letter dated April 25, 2005, to Mr. John C. Surina, you state that the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust owns 288 acres of farmland in Iowa which is currently leased on a fixed payment cash lease. What was the farming arrangement for this land in 2002, 2003 and 2004? On the Public Financial Disclosure Report (SF278) dated March 17, 2005, page 8, item 2, you indicate rental income of $15,000 to $50,000. On the Public Financial Disclosure Report (SF278) dated April 1, 2004, page 8, item 6, you indicate rental income of $50,001 to $100,000. Please explain fully the reason for the discrepancy between these two amounts.

RESPONSE: The agricultural land of the Melvin G. Dorr Irrevocable Family Trust was cash rented to a non-family member tenant for crop years 2002, 2003, and 2004.

The SF278 dated April 1, 2004, was marked in error. It should have been marked "$15,001 - $50,000". I have reported this mistake to the USDA Office of Ethics, and I will take appropriate action to correct the SF278.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR HARKIN

THOMAS C. DORR

Question: In your letter dated April 25, 2005, to Mr. John C. Surina, you state that the family-owned lands held jointly by the Melvin G. Dorr Residual Trust and the Margaret L. Dorr Qualified Terminable Interest Property Marital Deduction Trust is custom farmed by an operating entity. Do these trusts participate in federal farm programs? Does any person who has more than a 20-percent interest in the entity performing the custom farming also have any interest directly or indirectly in the crop on the farm by taking any risk in the production of the crop, sharing in the proceeds of the crop, or in the land as a landowner, trustee, manager, tenant, sharecropper, or in any other similar capacity? Is the compensation for the custom farming paid at a unit of work rate customary in the area? Is the compensation in no way dependent upon the amount of the crop produced?

RESPONSE: The family-owned lands, held jointly by the Melvin G. Dorr Residual Trust and the Margaret L. Dorr Qualified Terminable Interest Property Marital Deduction Trust, do participate in farm programs.

No person who has more than a 20-percent interest in the entity performing the custom farming has an interest, directly or indirectly, in the crop on the farm by taking any risk in the production of the crop or sharing in the proceeds of the crop. No person who has more than a 20-percent interest in the entity performing the custom farming has an interest, directly or indirectly, in the land as a landowner, trustee, manager, tenant, sharecropper, or in any other similar capacity.

The compensation for the custom farming is paid at a unit of work rate customary in the area.

The compensation is not dependent upon the amount of the crop produced.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR HARKIN

THOMAS C. DORR

Question: How many senior employees within Rural Development changed positions or left the U.S. Department of Agriculture in each year from 1999 through 2004? Please complete the following table for USDA Rural Development.

Year	Senior GS Employees above Grade 15		SES Employees		Political Employees	
	Reassigned	Left USDA	Reassigned	Left USDA	Reassigned	Left USDA
1999						
2000						
2001						
2002						
2003						
2004						

RESPONSE: I have a great deal of admiration for the experience, attitude and leadership skills of the workforce at USDA Rural Development. In my current capacity, I do not handle personnel issues, and I am not aware of the information requested. If confirmed, I should be able to provide the information, relative to the Rural Development Mission Area.

Question: How many senior employees within the U.S. Department of Agriculture changed positions or left the USDA in each year from 1999 through 2004? Please complete the following table for USDA.

Year	Senior GS Employees above Grade 15		SES Employees		Political Employees	
	Reassigned	Left USDA	Reassigned	Left USDA	Reassigned	Left USDA
1999						
2000						
2001						
2002						
2003						
2004						

RESPONSE: In my current capacity, I do not handle personnel issues, and I am not aware of the information requested. If confirmed, I should be able to provide the information, relative to the Rural Development Mission Area.

SENATOR COLEMAN'S QUESTIONS FOR MR. TOM DORR:

1. Mr. Dorr, I know from first hand experience that you are a strong friend of renewable fuels. As you know there was a provision in the FY04 and FY05 Agriculture Appropriations Bills directing the Secretary of Agriculture to use the resources of the Department for education and infrastructure promotion to expand the availability of bio-based fuels, including E-85 capable vehicle technologies, in Minnesota and other states. I understand the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition submitted a funding proposal to provide infrastructure development projects in Minnesota, Ohio, and other states. Mr. Dorr, would you work with me on implementing this provision of law to get this worthwhile effort up and running?

RESPONSE: I appreciate the need to begin deploying unique infrastructure to develop greater utilization of bio-based fuels. If confirmed, I intend to work with you to facilitate the implementation of all aspects of the law pertaining to rural economic development opportunities, including utilization of bio-based fuels.

2. Mr. Dorr, we have a situation in rural America where critical infrastructure needs are growing while federal budgets are getting tighter. A report by the American Society of Civil Engineers released last month assessed the four year trend in the condition of 12 categories of infrastructure. Of all infrastructure graded, water and wastewater facilities scored the lowest at a D-. The Environmental Protection Agency, municipal utilities, and the Congressional Budget Office agree, estimating that communities will need anywhere from $300 billion to $1 trillion over the next 20 years to repair, replace, or upgrade drinking water and wastewater facilities. Clearly, rural communities cannot grow economically and create good jobs that will keep people living, working, and raising their families in a community unless it has basic infrastructure, like water and waste, hospitals, police and fire, high speed internet access, affordable housing, and the like. Senators Pryor, DeWine, and Graham and I have been working on a way to leverage a relatively small amount of federal resources into a much larger fund to help build rural infrastructure through bonding. As we try to bridge the gap between federal resources and critical infrastructure needs, will you work with us on this effort?

RESPONSE: I agree with your observation that quality infrastructure, high-speed telecommunications, affordable housing and quality jobs are essential to the economic vitality of rural communities. I look forward to working with you, the Administration, and other Members of Congress to address these challenges and improve the quality of life in rural America.

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