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NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$86,306 TO WASHINGTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Greg Branum, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Missouri, announced \$86,306 in funding to the Washington County Industrial Development Authority. The ceremony was held on November 21, 2005, at the IDA Park in Potosi. The Mock Check represents approval of \$86,306 Rural Business Enterprise Grant funds which were used to help extend a road through the Industrial Park. The new road connects Highway "O" to Highway 8. The road will benefit Enhancements, Inc., a small business which will be locating in the park as well as future new businesses. Enhancements, Inc. anticipates 12 new jobs will become available.

"I'm pleased to announce this funding as an important investment in the jobs and economic growth in southeast Missouri," said U.S. Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "Hundreds of trucks and automobiles will drive over this new road extension to reach new and existing business. Transportation infrastructure is vital as we work to attract new businesses and jobs to the area."

US Representative Jo Ann Emerson said, "Our transportation infrastructure is critical to the economy and quality of life in our rural region of Missouri. We rely on our roads to be safe, convenient links between people and essential goods and services. Our roads also play a critical role in business development. USDA Rural Development works very hard to identify opportunities to invest in rural Missouri, and I appreciate their effort on this project."

Branum added, "Appreciation is extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. Economic development, the creation of jobs and funding essential services mirror the Agency's mission and President Bush's initiative of increasing economic opportunity in rural communities and improving the quality of life of rural residents".

Anyone seeking additional information on any USDA Rural Development program may visit the website at (<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/>) or by contacting Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, 10820 Hwy 21 Suite 201, Hillsboro, MO, 63050 or calling 636-789-3551.



Jim McCall, Don Thompson, 1st State Community Bank, Barry Davis, City IDA, David Mosier, County IDA, Wayne Malugen, Mayor Potosi, Ann Torwegge, City Alterman, Craig Torwegge, City IDA, Cathy Coffman, John Stringham, County IDA, James Politte, County IDA, John Higginbotham, County IDA, Greg Branum, SD, Heather Garner, Emerson's Office, Donna Martin, Roger Coleman, and Terry Luetkemeyer, AD Back row: Bruce Murdick, MODOT, Joe Walker, City IDA, Kevin Engler, 3rd District State Senator, , Robert Reed, Presiding Commissioner, Roy Logsdan, Potosi Chief of Police, Todd Moyers, County Commissioner, and Randy O'Neil, County Commissioner

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