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NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS CITY OF ELLSINORE WITH EARLY WARNING SIRENS

In a Mock Check Ceremony November 2, 2006, U.S. Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson and Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, Greg C. Branum, presented a check to the City of Ellsinore for \$12,450. The grant funds will assist with the purchase of an early warning siren benefiting the residents and local businesses of Ellsinore. The city is currently without siren protection.

“This past spring we saw the devastating effects of tornadoes and storms in Missouri,” said U.S. Senator Jim Talent. “Without question, early warning systems save lives. This funding will be used to purchase new outdoor emergency warning equipment for the residents of Ellsinore so they are better prepared for the event of an emergency.”

“Our public safety is of paramount importance in rural Missouri, and new early warning sirens are critical. We have seen how our Southern Missouri neighbors have suffered at the hands of tornadoes and weather disasters, so this project for the City of Ellsinore emphasizes our commitment to being prepared for these emergencies in the future. I very much appreciate USDA Rural Development for identifying this opportunity to invest in Ellsinore, and I thank U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent for their involvement and support,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

“Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush’s initiatives for rural America and Rural Development’s commitment to the future of rural communities,” Branum said. He added, “Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents of providing essential services to rural Missourians.” In addition, Branum recognized Ozark Border Electric Cooperative for their assistance in providing a utility pole and installation of the siren.

Ellsinore’s Mayor William Fulford said, “The threat of severe weather in our community is very real as history has shown when a tornado blew through on April 23, 2002, and again exactly two years later on April 23, 2004. In addition, there is the constant threat of terrorist activity that our nation faces in this day and age and the fact that our town is situated on a major U.S. highway on which hazardous materials are transported. The warning siren will be an invaluable asset to alerting our residents of any impending



Front Row, left to right: U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, Mayor William Fulford, City clerk Lisa Schaffer, and Rural Development State Director Greg Branum
Back Row: Rural Development Specialist Phyllis Minner, Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, Dr. Greg Batson, Ozark Foothills Regional Planning, and Rural Development Manager Angela Reynolds.

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danger. On behalf of the City of Ellsinore, I would like to thank the USDA Rural Development for helping us financially in acquiring the siren.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or can contact Angela Reynolds, Rural Development Manager, at the Poplar Bluff Local Office, 4327 Hwy 67 N, Poplar Bluff, Missouri 63901 or by calling 573-785-9679 ext. 4.

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