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From: David Oien at Timeless Seeds [mailto:david.timeless@3riversdbs.net] Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 9:49 AM
To: Johnson, Claudia
Subject: Re: Economics Affair hearing last week in Great Falls on Feb. 7

Hi Cj

I have attached electronically the handout I provided at EAcommittee hearing. Oral presentation was a bit different, but the handout had a bit more detail.

It was an honor to be invited to share (a few) of my thoughts, and I must say I was very impressed with the committee's genuine interest in the task at hand & pertinent follow-up questions and discussion. It was terrific to have the broad range of enterprises represented, and interesting to note both the commonality (in some cases) and the differences (in others) in their concerns and needs--this based both on their size and where they were on the "value added chain". Though it wasn't drawn out during the hearing, it was notable the relative impact on employment an enterprise had depending on how close the enterprise was to a retail level product. Those closer to the commodity end of the spectrum the fewer employees per scale of operation (and probably \$\$ investment in physical infrastructure), whereas the closer to the finished product end of the spectrum, the more employees per scale of operation. There is a lesson to be learned in there somewhere.

In any case, thanks very much for the invitation. I was also very heartened to see Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate all sitting side by side and focused together on the real needs of their constituents. I look forward to further dialogue with the committee.

p.s FYI, Timeless sells whole flax seed, but not oil. The whole flax seed actually has higher nutritional value than the oil--esp. dietary fiber. Appreciate your support!

dave