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State of Wisconsin

Department of Workforce Development

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October 14, 2002

Mirwais Qader  
1351 South Street, #15  
Madison, WI 53715

Dear Mir:

I applaud your effort to establish a small business development program in Afghanistan with the goal of supporting the underprivileged, women and everyday common people with financing, training, education and entrepreneurial opportunities.

In line with your commitment to assist people in Afghanistan, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has jobs and business development programs to help low-income entrepreneurs develop businesses in Wisconsin. DWD and its predecessor state agencies, along with its component programs, have a long history of service to Wisconsin citizens. Throughout the past 119 years, DWD has been dedicated to the welfare of Wisconsin workers and workplaces. Beginning with labor market statistics and workplace safety, DWD grew along with the national concern for fair treatment of workers and locating workers for employers. Today, with the incorporation of economic support and vocational rehabilitation programs, DWD is the umbrella for all of the Wisconsin programs that relate to employment.

For 2002, DWD has 2,452 employees and a budget of \$2.415 billion – 78% of the budgeted funds or \$1.9 billion goes directly to individuals or organizations for programs that DWD administers. The Wisconsin Works (W-2) program received an “Innovations in American Government Award” from the Ford Foundation. We have repeatedly been recognized as a model workforce development agency in the nation hosting many international and national delegations that want to see our programs in action and learn from our experiences.

I wish you the best of luck and success on your project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Alexander'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Alexander  
Secretary