



Mr. Jack Schultz  
Chief Executive Officer  
Agracel, Inc.  
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Effingham, IL 62401

Dear Mr. Schultz:

On behalf of 2003-2004 NACo President Karen Miller and I, I want commend you on your outstanding presentation to America's county leaders at the National Association of Counties Annual Conference and Exposition last month in Maricopa County (Phoenix), Arizona. Your keynote address during the Presidential Business Development Luncheon Forum was accurate, insightful, and extremely well received by our county elected leaders.

The lessons imparted through your outstanding book, "Boomtown USA: The 7 1/2 Keys to Big Success in Small Towns" provide compelling strategies and techniques that local decision makers can implement to strengthen their economies and improve their communities. Evaluation respondents uniformly described your presentation as outstanding. In fact, over ninety percent of attendees gave the session the highest rating, a 5—Outstanding, with not a single respondent ascribing a rating below 4—Very Good. Thanks for helping to make our Presidential Initiative for Sustainable Economic Development event a success. Groups with similar interests in community development, sustainable growth, and the challenges facing small and midtown America would be well served by contacting you, and I would strongly encourage them to do so.

You will certainly be hearing from me in the future as we continue to expand the effort through our Partnership for Economic Opportunity with the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) and others. We are currently contemplating next steps, including inviting you back to share your insights at future forums and events. As those opportunities arise, I hope you will consider them.

In the meanwhile, thank you once again for your outstanding presentation to America's county leaders. We appreciate you sharing your expertise in such a compelling, understandable and optimistic manner and look forward to working with you again.

All the best,

Martin L. Harris  
Director  
Center for Sustainable Communities

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