



Mr. Jack Schultz, CEO  
Agracel, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1107  
Effingham, IL 62401

Dear Mr. *Jack* Schultz:

On behalf of the Ozarks Regional Economic Partnership, I would like to express my appreciation for your outstanding presentation at our Fall Partnership Meeting. As you know, the OREP is a regional economic development program of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. Our organization currently includes 67 members in the 10-county region surrounding Springfield. These members include 10 counties, 35 cities and 22 chambers of commerce.

Boomtown USA is a must read for all economic development leaders who represent rural communities across this nation. From professional economic developers to local community and business leaders to local elected officials, the 7-1/2 keys to success in small towns provide the foundation to any successful community. The same can be said for regions. Not only is it important for leaders to work together for the same vision, it is important for communities to work together to achieve success.

As you know, our region in southwest Missouri is the fastest growing region of the state. With this growth, there are many challenges. All economies are regional and each community needs to identify the role it can play in this regional economy. Boomtown USA is a perfect read for community leaders to determine this role, how to improve a community's position, and address the challenges associated with growth. Effective partnerships are the key to success.

Your presentation took your 150-page book and delivered a message that changed the mindset of many community leaders in our region. I would recommend that any economic development organization allow you an hour to present your message and change the future of its community or region.

As you continue to travel across the nation speaking to various groups, I am eager to hear what you have learned and look forward to your next book. Thanks again for educating the leaders of our region. If there is anything we can do to assist, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Kunkel, CEcD  
Manager, Regional Development