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Flagstaff Mayor, City Council, City Manager
City of Flagstaff
211 West Aspen Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

January 25, 2013

RE: Budget Consideration FY14 UPDATE

Honorable Mayor and City Council, and City Manager,

We are pleased to offer an update to the October 16, 2012 letter of request to Manager Burke to support the work of the Sustainable Economic Development Initiative of Northern Arizona.

- SEDI's Innovation Summit in October was a tremendous success bringing together roughly 400 people including 41 elected officials, 76 entrepreneurs, 22 organizations, 222 college and high school students, and other interested individuals. The outcomes included opportunities for business owners and electeds to share ideas, interaction between local business owners, successful examples of start-ups, and agencies that assist start-ups. Students received an education about entrepreneurial alternatives for after graduation.
- As a result of feedback from the Innovation Summit, SEDI has shifted focus from the workforce training center to a business assistance center. This is an area to foster interaction amongst start-ups, existing businesses, and support resources.
- SEDI is administering a grant that will link businesses to sustainability education in the school system. So far we have identified four businesses that are committed to sponsoring a classroom in partnership with an organization called Terra BIRDS. This is a self-sustaining program that engages local business support in leading fourth grade students on a creative journey of environmental and experiential learning that will prepare them to thrive in the world they will soon inherit.
- The City of Flagstaff sponsored SEDI's study, "Beef Processing in Northern Arizona" which identified obstacles and presented a plan for moving an important aspect of local food production forward.
- SEDI's Green Drinks monthly networking event showcases local businesses from a standpoint of resiliency, positive environmental impact, and successful business models.

We thank the City of Flagstaff for its continued support and look forward to a vibrant partnership in the future. SEDI is proud to be an integral link in the chain of economic development activity merging resources with ideas in the expanding business community in Flagstaff and the region.

Looking forward to answering your questions,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Al White".

Al White

Acting Executive Director, SEDI



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Kevin Burke, City Manager
City of Flagstaff
211 West Aspen Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

October 16, 2012

RE: Budget Consideration FY14

Dear Mr. Burke,

We are writing on behalf of the Board of Directors for the Sustainable Economic Development Initiative of Northern Arizona (SEDI) to request consideration of continued financial support in the FY14 Budget for the organization.

SEDI provides value to the City of Flagstaff and the region in many ways. A most immediate example is the recent Innovation Summit on October 9th. This event is a cornerstone in building a culture of entrepreneurship in Flagstaff. Attendance exceeded 250 entrepreneurs and policy makers from around the region. At this event we also unveiled the new IdeAZmap.com, a roadmap to building or growing a business. This site is a rich resource of local business service providers and compliments SEDI's Green Business Network greenbiznaz.org as well.

Years of SEDI efforts to develop a configurable workforce training facility to address the needs of regional manufacturers is moving towards a successful multi organization partnership. We anticipate that this will be up and running in 2013.

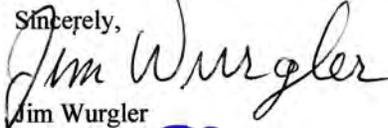
The SEDI Teacher Awards for Sustainability Education is a successful tool to encourage and reward teachers that incorporate sustainability education into their curriculum grooming our future leaders to be strong stewards of economic development. We are launching the fourth year of this program.

SEDI has developed a cooperative working relationship with ECoNA, has formalized a merged working team combining the ECoNA Economic Gardening team and the SEDI Entrepreneurial Team, and has commonly shared board members.

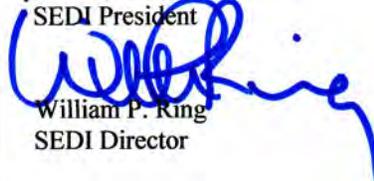
SEDI has a strong relationship with NACET and supports the work of helping entrepreneurs stay in business. Eighty five percent of businesses that go through incubation are in for the long run.

We are proud of the production of the Sustainable Community Indicators Report a document that outlines how policy makers can assess the success of their economic development efforts.

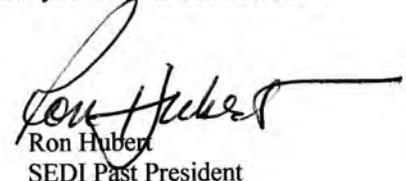
As the City Council prepares to discuss the FY14 budget, we would like to ask for continued support of SEDI at the current level of \$20,000. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Jim Wurgler
SEDI President



William P. Ring
SEDI Director



Ron Hubert
SEDI Past President

Richard Bowen
SEDI Director
