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Emanuel Cleaver, II

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May 20, 2011

Dr. Lena T. Rodriguez
Urban Entrepreneur Partnership
1520 E. 18th St.
Kansas City, MO 64108

Dear Dr. Lena T. Rodriguez:

It was a pleasure meeting with you earlier this week to discuss the work you all are doing at the Kauffman Foundation. I am delighted to write this letter in recognition and support of the Kauffman Foundation's Urban Entrepreneur Partnership. You have stated your belief in the entrepreneurial spirit and its ability to positively affect others. Your actions have made that belief clear. The Urban Entrepreneur Partnership has committed itself to the development of business and society for those who stand to benefit the most.

When I first arrived in Kansas City to establish its chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, I wanted desperately to become a part of building a city that was economically prosperous and beneficial to all. Continuing on as a City Councilmember, Mayor and Congressman, I have, with considerable help, done my best to maintain this focus on the development of our urban core. The creation of the Green Impact Zone is my latest effort. This work would be entirely in vein if it were not for the support provided by programs such as yours. The true developmental spirit comes from organizations that can connect business with people and provide the partnerships that benefit society as a whole.

I am proud to represent programs such as the Urban Entrepreneur Partnership that provide "focused and solution-oriented" intellect to its clients. I fully support the work done so far and charge the Urban Entrepreneur Partnership to continue to create the same wonderful opportunities for our community that it has in the past. Thank you for all you have done and all you will surely continue to do.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emanuel Cleaver, II", followed by a horizontal line.

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress