



May 31, 2012

The Honorable Senator Harkin
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin,

I am writing today asking for your continued assistance to preserve and support funding for the Ottumwa Job Corps Center located in Ottumwa, Iowa. Knowing that budget cuts are always a possibility, this letter is intended to let you know how important the Job Corps Center is to its students, to our community, and to our employers. I encourage you to continue making Job Corps Centers a funding priority.

Job Corps is one of the government programs that have proven results. Jobs Corps provides excellent skill training in many different trades for its students enabling them to find meaningful and well-paying jobs. The classroom education Job Corps students receive is equally valuable in allowing them to become active and engaged members of our community. Most of the students upon graduation from the Ottumwa Jobs Corps Center will find employment, go on to higher education, or join the military.

The City of Ottumwa and the entire region around Ottumwa benefit from a well-run Job Corps Center that allows young people a place to reach their full potential. Job Corps students and staff spend many volunteer hours with city and charitable organizations contributing valuable time so needed to make our community inviting and welcoming.

Local employers looking for skilled works need look no further than Job Corps. Along with the pool of local talent Job Corps creates, Job Corps also employs more than a hundred people and purchases many of its good and services from local businesses. Ottumwa Job Corps Center is a valued member of our community and provides skills and opportunities for young people that might otherwise not be available. Most become productive, positive and tax payers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request. It is my hope that you will continue to work hard to make the funding of Jobs Corps Centers a priority nationwide and, more specifically, in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Sincerely,

Terry McNitt
Executive Director