



Cooperative Extension

Pierce County

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UW SYSTEM

APR 28 2008

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 23, 2008

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Pierce County UW-Extension office strongly supports the budget request of University of Wisconsin-River Falls for their continued initiative of "Growing a Sustainable Wisconsin: Individuals, Businesses, and Communities."

As a county Extension office in western Wisconsin, we focus on bringing non-biased, research based information to individuals, businesses, and local decision makers. We rely on UW-River Falls to provide us with the crucial resources to promote sustainable community and economic development and natural resource preservation. Our past and continuing collaborations with UW-River Falls have been extremely valuable and have greatly benefited people across western Wisconsin.

With the rapid growth and development occurring in western Wisconsin, we need, more than ever, continued and expanded resources and support from our local University to address the issues of the area. Our office is experiencing a tremendous increase in inquiries by residents and local governments related to sustainability issues such as renewable energy, local food resources, and environmental protection. Economic development also continues to be a major issue, yet there is great concern about how development may affect our precious natural resources, including surface and groundwater. We rely on UW-River Falls to be a major influence on sustainability information and education for western Wisconsin and beyond.

Our office programs in many areas, including Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development (CNRED), Agriculture, Horticulture, Family Living and 4-H and Youth Development. We are in a position to collaborate with UW-River Falls in their efforts to infuse sustainability principles throughout the region. We have direct educational contacts with individuals within the communities, as well as youth in 4-H and local schools. We are also able to provide volunteers

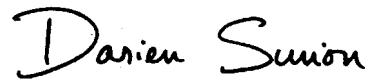
through the Master Gardener program and the youth development programs, as well as other resources, to assist UW-River Falls in their efforts related to sustainability and community education.

Again, we strongly support the expansion of the efforts of UW-River Falls to help Wisconsin become more sustainable through research, education, and outreach. We look forward to continuing our current collaborations and developing new relationships with the campus as we address these important issues.

Sincerely,



Diana Alfuth
Horticulture Educator



Darien Simon
Community Resource
Development Agent