

April 5, 2001

Mr. Kenneth Kuchno, Director  
Eastern Area  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Utilities Service  
STOP 1599  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Kuchno:

Please accept this letter as indication of my support for Mississippi Blood Services' efforts to obtain funding to implement a model 510K cleared electronic blood donor record system. I strongly support Project UNITE. After obtaining this system, Mississippi Blood Services will serve as a model blood center to implement electronic data collection. This is a worthy endeavor that can greatly contribute to national health priorities.

Mississippi Blood Services will work with community health centers and other community facilities to collect, analyze and publicize data for blood centers nationally. Mississippi Blood Services is a leader within our state and our country. The organization was one of thirteen in our state honored with a Mississippi Quality Award in recognition of its applying the principles of continuous improvement and world class practices.

Through Project UNITE, Mississippi Blood Services will be the first blood service in the rural South to automate the blood collection process and will be *the first blood service in Mississippi to introduce a telemedicine network as a donor referral network*. Mississippi Blood Services will also be the first blood service in the Southeast to partner with a rural community-based case management network (Delta Community Partners in Care) for primary care and health education.

I urge you to contribute to this project that will enhance health priorities not only in Mississippi, but in our nation as well. I am pleased to offer support for this project.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr