

To bolster its success, Wild Touch Taxidermy took full advantage of export assistance through the Idaho Department of Commerce, which connected the business to Taiwanese buyers through its trade office in Taipei. The business's exposure to the Asian market allowed them to expand the business to China. Wild Touch Taxidermy was also provided grant funds through the Small Business Administration's State Trade and Export Promotion Program, which seeks to grow the number of U.S. small businesses that export their goods and services to foreign buyers. The additional aid for 2 years allowed the owners to attend several trade shows and trade missions in Taiwan and China, which resulted in a boost to the business's profitability and international presence. Utilizing STEP grants, Wild Touch Taxidermy's actual export sales for year one leveraged a return on investment of 15 to 1 and actual export sales for year two leveraged a return on investment of 74 to 1, with anticipation of more sales in the international market.

With 29 years of experience, Wild Touch Taxidermy has achieved a reputation of excellence both domestically and internationally. Wild Touch Taxidermy's dedication to quality, persistence in pursuing new opportunities, and their efficient use of export assistance have allowed their business to catapult to the next level. I congratulate Kelly and Sharon Adams and wish them an abundance of success in the future.●

JONES COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Jones County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Jones County worth over \$870,000 and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$5.6 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the community's work to secure funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency for programs I fought for to mitigate and prepare for natural disasters and provide safety equipment and training for firefighters.

Among the highlights:

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Jones County has received over \$2.9 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the methamphetamine epidemic. During the mid-to-late 1990's, cities in Jones County received \$311,465 in Community Oriented Policing Services grants. Also, since 2001, Jones County's fire departments have received over \$985,443 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a

school district. Over the years, Jones County has received \$750,273 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Jones County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$82,973.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Jones County has received more than \$687,000 from a variety of farm bill programs.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Jones County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Jones County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Jones County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

WAYNE COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its