AJINOMOTO WINDSOR

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Joplin City Council
602 S. Main St.
Joplin, MO 64801

Re: Ajinomoto Windsor, Inc./DEF, LLC
Additional Chapter 100 Bonds

Dear Joplin City Council Members:

Late last year the City of Joplin and State of Missouri approved the issuance of bonds to DEF, LLC ("DEF"), the wholly owned subsidiary of Ajinomoto Windsor, Inc. ("AWI"), in the amount of about $44 million for the construction of a new frozen food production facility in Crossroads Park. The purpose of this letter is to request that the city issue an additional $10 million in bonds for the completion of this project.

After receipt of approval for the bonds, AWI began construction of its new production facility. We are happy to report that great progress has been made and we are on schedule to begin operations by the end of the year.

However, due to a number of changes in the project plan, our budget for this project now looks like it will exceed the original budget by approximately $10 million. This spending falls into two groups; production equipment and building.

Production Equipment

There are two main reasons for the additional spending in equipment and both are good for the plant and good for the State of Missouri. The total equipment spending increase is $3.7 million. Because we are able to sell Piedmont to Tasty Brands, we had several pieces of equipment that needed to stay as part of the purchase. The cost of a new extruder, vegetable processing equipment, and all maintenance shop equipment is $1.7 million. Although, this will provide AWI with some improvements, the main reason for this spend is directly related to the sale of Piedmont. The State of Missouri receives a direct benefit from this.

The balance of the equipment spend of about $2 million is for other purposes that help us stay more competitive in the market place and allow us to be more creative with products to meet the market's needs.

Building

About $6.3 million of the additional spending is related to the building. A fairly large part of this increased spend is related to the Food Safety Modernization Act, a new law that has radically altered the food production industry. For example, we have had to rework our plan to completely separate the air systems for each room and the individual clean equipment storage rooms are two of the biggest costs. We also did some work for allergen control and for new organic needs. We also added a great deal of site security to the plant including 65 additional cameras and enhanced door control. This is related to our Safe Quality Foods Level III requirements and our new security policy. We have also incurred some extra costs related to improved energy efficiency for the HVAC/refrigeration/compressed air systems.

Based on these added expenditures, we respectfully request an additional issuance of bonds in the amount of $10 million to cover our expanded project.

Please let us know if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Paul Taylor