

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**COLEMAN ANNOUNCES OVER \$2.7 MILLION FOR JOB AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH IN RURAL MINNESOTA**

*\$450,000 awarded to the Minnesota Soybean Processors for Financing of
New Facility in Brewster*

St. Paul, MN – Senator Norm Coleman announced today that \$2,725,000 in loans and grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be awarded to eight rural projects in Minnesota.

Among the recipients are the Minnesota Soybean Processors, which will use a \$450,000 loan for partial financing of their new soybean processing facility in the city of Brewster. This loan will leverage over \$71 million in other funding, creating 40 new local jobs.

“My number one priority is to focus on job creation and economic development for Minnesota,” said Coleman. “These USDA funds help ensure strong economic growth in rural Minnesota, and I am quite pleased that the state will benefit from this important USDA funding.”

The USDA recently administered \$10.9 million to 34 recipients in 17 states through its Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program. The USDA program is part of President Bush’s efforts to spur economic development in rural areas of America. Minnesota received 25 percent of this funding, helping to create or protect over 230 jobs in nine rural communities throughout the state.

Projects in Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin also received funding, assisting in the creation or protection of more than 900 rural jobs.