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May 8, 2006

Mayor Tom Barrett
200 East Wells Street, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett:

I write to encourage you in your efforts to locate a Job Corps Center in Milwaukee. Nearly thirty years has passed since we established the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center in Saint Paul. Starting up was not easy because change of any kind in a solid working class neighborhood is understandably viewed with concern by long term residents. We persisted in our efforts and the years have affirmed that the effort was worth it. The property values are up, the neighborhood is stronger than ever and the Job Corps faculty and its students are considered an asset to our city.

Although there is some distance between your great old city and mine, I do believe that our people are united in the faith that given an opportunity to acquire work habits and skills, our young people can lead successful and productive lives.

Since 1977, we now have more than 8,500 young people who have gone through the program at the Job Corps and 91% of them were placed in immediate employment positions. Important to our community is the fact that although our students come from through out the upper Midwest, 80% of them have chosen to remain in the Twin Cities. This has added immeasurably to the productivity of our region, not to mention the well being of thousands of families.

Not every dream comes true in this business of building and rebuilding our cities, but Mayor, I can tell you that I count the Humphrey Job Corps in Saint Paul as one of those dreams which has come true.

I wish you all the best.

Keep the faith.

Very truly yours,

George Latimer
Mayor of Saint Paul 1976-1990