



December 11, 2017

Dear American Doorstop Project:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for your research, archival and marketing efforts in securing funding for Legacy Project 2019. I applaud and support your initiative to develop, direct and promote a documentary film and commemorative guidebook that will promote history, education and tourism in 2019 and beyond, featuring a western Nebraska citizen whose story and history deserves and needs to be recognized.

As you have already demonstrated in your first book, *"A History of Nebraska Agriculture: A Life Worth Living,"* your focus is genuine and your historical narratives and stories honor the men, women and communities that have made a significant impact in Nebraska and to American agriculture. We certainly would be remiss as agriculture and business leaders from Scottsbluff and the surrounding region not to support you in recognizing and commemorating the life and contributions of John A. Nerud. Thanks in part to your research, we are now aware of Mr. Nerud's humble upbringing on a ranch near Lake Minatare and journey to become one of America's most accomplished and revered thoroughbred horse trainers and breeders the industry has ever known.

We understand and appreciate how **Legacy Project 2019** will bring a documentary film along with events and programming to our community by creating multiple collaborations to drive tourism for an economic impact and return. Your ability to bring history to life for a younger generation will build awareness and new programming for our local entertainment and historical centers like **Midwest Theater, Legacy of the Plains** and **Chimney Rock Visitor Center**.

In addition to Mr. Nerud's story, you've demonstrated how thoroughbred horse racing used to be part of the **Scotts Bluff County Fair** and how **Fort Robinson** connects western Nebraska to America's First Triple Crown Winner – Sir Barton, who served as a U.S. Army Remount stallion. What a great opportunity to put a spotlight on western Nebraska in 2019 during the 100-Year Anniversary of America's First Triple Crown winner.

We encourage other community leaders and officials to consider joining **First State Bank** and your other partners to help you reach your funding goals. Thank you for allowing us an opportunity to participate in Legacy Project 2019.

Sincerely,

Marvin Hefti  
Chairman