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JOB OPPORTUNITY – WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA ORGANIZER

Dakota Rural Action (DRA) is seeking the right individual to join our team. The newly hired Western South Dakota Organizer will get the opportunity to work with the staff and members of a fast growing grassroots organization whose work on local foods, landowner protection, extractive energy protection, renewable energy, and leadership building are unique in South Dakota. Position will be located in Rapid City, SD. This is a full-time position.

Dakota Rural Action is a 28 year old grassroots organization working in South Dakota on family farm, environmental and local food issues. DRA organizes at the grassroots level to build a strong base of member who work together to make change at the local, state and national levels. DRA is a democratically run organization with decisions made by our Board of Directors, chapters, and committees.

This organizer's duties will include:

- **Build and maintain local chapters that maximize the power and participation of their members**
 - Lead organizer for the Black Hills chapter and the ongoing uranium mining campaign fighting to stop in situ mining in the Black Hills
 - Work with the chapter to develop, plan and execute future campaigns
 - Recruit and retain active chapter members. Meet yearly fundraising and membership recruitment goals
 - Build grassroots leadership among active members
- **Work with leaders, producers and consumers to grow the SD Local Food Cooperative in Western South Dakota**
 - Hold informational gatherings to bring in new producer and consumer members
 - Recruit new co-op members both consumers and producers
 - Work with the western steering committee for the co-op
 - Track membership and sales growth and work with other leaders and staff to develop marketing and expansion plans
 - Work with a state-wide co-op staff team on the Co-op
- **Lead Organizer for DRA's Legislative lobbying**
 - Spend significant amount of time working in Pierre during yearly Legislative Session
 - Prepare members and leaders to lobby and testify on their issues
 - Prepare weekly updates for DRA membership
 - Prepare and update the DRA lobby guide
 - Prepare the legislative wrap up at the end of the session

- Prepare the legislative fundraising letter and plan. Work with other staff to get it sent out and ensure goals are met.
- Track member activity at the legislative session
- Coordinate social media and online elements connected to lobby work

Qualifications:

- Must have completed a four-year degree or have equivalent experience
- Be familiar with basic software, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Gmail or Microsoft Outlook. Must be comfortable navigating the internet and handling administrative tasks (creating basic promotional materials, making phone calls and conducting meetings, for example)
- Ability to work effectively in networks and coalitions
- Excellent writing, speaking and interpersonal communications skills
- Skilled in group dynamics and group decision-making process
- Knowledge of South Dakota and its people a plus
- A strategic thinker and planner
- Someone who can motivate people to take action
- Must have a driver's license and be able to drive
- Possession of personal vehicle is helpful, but not necessary
- Must be a team player, and also work with minimal supervision

Salary and Hiring date:

Depending on experience. Generous benefits included.

Apply:

Send resume, writing sample, and three references to Frank James, Director, PO Box 549, Brookings, SD 57006, fejames@dakotarural.org, 605.697.5204. If you have any questions please contact Dakota Rural Action.

Application deadline: Open until filled

Dakota Rural Action is a grassroots family agriculture and conservation group that organizes South Dakotans to protect our family farmers and ranchers, natural resources and unique way of life.