October 16, 2009

Spokane Area Resident
980 River St.
Spokane, WA 99208

Dear Spokane Area Resident,

Our state’s economy has experienced a great deal of change since September, 2008. Some residents we have talked to feel changes in important areas of their life – their work, retirement plans, housing, and health insurance – have made their lives more difficult, while others feel they have benefited from these changes.

We are asking for your help in an important study to find out how households in all 39 of Washington’s counties have been affected by events of the last year. We are also interested in whether people in our state feel they have benefited or not from national efforts to stimulate the economy. We hope results of this study can be helpful to state leaders in their attempts to provide employment and services needed throughout the state.

We request that the questionnaire be completed by an adult who can best answer questions about how members of your household have been affected (or not) by the economic changes in this past year.

We are hoping you can complete the questionnaire on the Internet. Doing that is easy: just enter this web page address in your Internet browser, and then type in your access code to begin the survey. If needed, more detailed instructions are provided on the web page.

http://www.opinion.wsu.edu/economy/
Your access code: 58930

We realize that some households may not have access to the Internet. If this is the case for you, in about three weeks we will send a paper version of the questionnaire for you to fill out and mail back to us. However, we encourage you to complete the survey on the Internet if possible.

Your answers are voluntary. They are also confidential. Our mailing list is a scientific sample of postal addresses that does not include names and will not be shared with anyone. When the results are summarized your answers will not be associated with your mailing address or household.

If you have any questions about this study please contact Thom Allen, the study director, by phone at 1-800-833-0867, or by email at ted@wsu.edu.

As a way to say thanks, we’ve included a small token of appreciation. In addition, we hope that this survey gives you an opportunity to voice your thoughts about how you and others you know have been affected by the economic changes occurring throughout Washington during the past year.

Best wishes,

Don A. Dillman