

All –

Following is an urgent request from USDA...

We are anticipating that USDA may be forced to close down because of the coronavirus and we are preparing our processes if that happens.

Since USDA Rural Utility Service (RUS) acts as a bank, we routinely sign documents and file them for registration in the local county records. We are investigating ways that we can get them signed, notarized and witnessed properly or electronically signed and submitted with a telework employee force. We need to understand which states allow electronic signatures (I think a state would be the exception rather than rule if they did not allow but we need to know the exceptions) **and need to understand which counties are incapable of accepting electronically signed documents.**

Please forward this to your department that works with counties on these questions. I appreciate your help more than I can tell you.