

NATIVE AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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February 28, 2005

Montana Legislature
House of Representatives
P. O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

Dear House of Representatives:

The Native American Development Corporation (NADC), a non-profit community economic development organization fully encourages and supports HB 417 for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial signature event in Billings. The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial's *Clark On the Yellowstone* events plan on highlighting and honoring American Indian culture. NADC is actively participating in the planning of this event because it will provide economic development opportunities for Tribal members in the state of Montana. NADC has partnered with the Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance to coordinate an Indian Fine Art Market, a Star Quilt Show, a Cradle Board Exhibit, a Native American Style Show, and an Indian arts and crafts show. Each of these events will provide a venue for Native American artists to market and sell their art to collectors who fully appreciate their work.

The lives of American Indians were forever changed with the Lewis and Clark expedition, Native Americans went from self-sustaining independent economies to eventual economies of dependence. We at NADC feel that it would be appropriate for the Native people of Montana to improve their economic conditions with the Bi-Centennial commemoration *Clark on the Yellowstone*.

Funding is always an issue when organizing events, and we hope that the Montana House of Representatives agree that *Clark on the Yellowstone* is a very worthwhile occasion to support for the State of Montana and it's Tribal Nations. The Native American Development Corporation believes that it is very worthwhile since it will encourage economic development opportunities for Montana Indians.

Cordially,

Velma Pretty On Top
NADC Executive Director

