

EXHIBIT 22
DATE 3-21-05
HB 540

**Mrs. Shirley Groff, Trustee
Montana Historical Society
3106 Floral Blvd.
Butte, Montana 59701
Email shirley@bigskyhsd.com
Phone 406-494-5014
March 21, 2005**

Ms. Rozie Buzzas, Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Reference HB 540

Dear Ms. Buzzas and Committee,

The preservation of Montana's treasures is of utmost importance to the continuation of a strong state and nation. Without the recording and preservation of the past it is impossible to move smoothly and confidently into the future.

It is extremely important that the Montana Historical Society has the proper facility and means to insure the continuation of protecting, preserving, and collecting the documentation that is important for the future generations.

The Montana's Museum (Capitol Hill Mall) project is a golden opportunity for the state and for the visitors that will ultimately visit a new modern museum with adequate parking and easy access off a major north south highway.

The Montana Historical Society has a wealth of information for future researchers, teachers, and students. Do not let this opportunity escape.

Yours truly,

March 17, 2005

To the Montana Legislature:

With this letter I wish to express my strongest support for the proposal to fund a new Montana Heritage Center. I am the third generation of my family to call Montana home and my grandfather represented the people of Wolf Point both in the Montana House of Representatives and in the Senate. I am also a three time appointee to the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees and a past President of the Board.

I have always thought of the Society's mission as a four legged stool--we have four objectives:

1. to build strong economic activity by bringing in new dollars through heritage tourism;
2. to build a strong tax base by stimulating economic activity and through rehabilitation of older buildings;
3. to make Montana attractive for new business location--by making Montana a desirable place for working people to live and enhancing the quality of life; and
4. to build a strong identity and educate people to what that identity is.

As a long-serving trustee I can tell you that the Montana Historical Society is at a critical point in our ability to be able to carry out the role and scope of our mission. All great institutions that are of our kind and character and have the goals we have are based on great collections. I believe that the principal limiting factor to our success is the lack of space for maintaining our world-class collections. Our library, archives, and museum are literally bursting at the seams. We have contracted for additional space and use scarce and dear funds to pay an additional annual fee for that space.

The development of the Heritage Center, as proposed, will resolve most of these problems. As a Montanan interested in our heritage, this proposal receives my highest recommendation and I hope that you are able to give it serious consideration. If you have any further questions I am happy to answer them and I can best be reached through my email address: tafoor@selway.unt.edu.

Thomas A. Foor, Ph.D.
430 Connell Avenue
Missoula, MT 59802

March 17, 2005

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I would appeal to you to give your utmost consideration to the bonding measure that will allow the Montana Historical Society to move to new quarters. As most of you know we are at present bursting at the seams. As Montana's oldest State Agency--since 1865--we have faithfully acquired, stored and processed the art and artifacts of this great State. We provide many services to the cities and counties in Montana.

Since 1952 when the Society moved into the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building our collections have grown and grown until we now rent space to accommodate the mandates of the Legislature and the wishes of the public. We have become an Institution of National consequence and importance.

With the growth of the Society it has become a point of destination and we have difficulties in accommodating national tours and a steady flow of tourists. There just is no parking for buses, vehicles and other conveyances. We have collections that would be tourist draws but cannot be exhibited. Our staff is dedicated and work under some horrendous conditions. In short, we need this new facility badly.

As a fourth generation Montanan whose ancestors came with the Gold seekers and stayed to help build this State, serving in National and State Government, I would remind you all that this is ..."the Last Best Place" and that this might be the LAST BEST DEAL!!!!

R.F. Morgan, Vice President
Board of Trustees
Montana Historical Society

March 18, 2005

As a trustee of the Montana Historical Society, I am excited about the prospect of Montana's memory moving to a spacious location. The purchase of the Capital Hill mall is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Montana Historical Society to secure a building large enough to house Montana's history for at least the next century.

For many years the talented staff of the Montana Historical Society has worked under adverse conditions. Lack of space has made it difficult to store, to say nothing of display, artifacts and records of the 20th century; yet, this group remains enthusiastic and dedicated.

Generous Montanans who have donated artifacts and art to the Society deserve to have them displayed or, at least, stored in environmentally sound conditions. State documents should be located where the public has ready access to them. Neither is possible in the present MHS building.

Because buying the Capital City mall would save a considerable amount of money over purchasing land and building a new facility, I strongly urge the committee to keep the Montana Historical Society in the bonding bill and to pass the bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judith C. Cole, Trustee
Montana Historical Society
(e-mail signature)

H Bar R Ranches

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March 17, 2005

Representative Rosalie "Rosie" Buzzas, Chair
House Appropriation Committee

Members of House Appropriation Committee

Reference HB 540

The Montana History Center Project is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the State of Montana. The Project not only provides needed space to house the State's treasures, heritage and other memorabilia, but allows proper interpretive and educational areas for the public to enjoy.

Added museum visitations equals economic benefits which equals increased State revenues. This Project Site can only enhance the visitor's experience when entering the State Capitol area.

With acquisition of this Project site, the existing Montana Historical Society building would be available to be occupied by other State agencies. Space is always at a premium in the Capitol area.

As a Montana native and Trustee of the Montana Historical Society I strongly support HB 540 and would appreciate your serious consideration.

Respectfully,

W. M. "Bill" Holt

March 18, 2005

To The Montana Legislature:

The Montana History Center project is a transformational project offering a very exciting opportunity for the State of Montana.

The long term economic benefits that accrue from this project justify the investments by both the State and the private sector. In addition to the significant historical and educational opportunities afforded by this facility, the Montana History Center offers a new and very exciting tourist destination in the heart of Montana that will help revitalize the region and drive significant commercial activity influencing long term economic growth in the Helena region and in the state.

This is an economically viable, academically important idea that bolsters the stature of the State of Montana, and contributes to the economic growth of the State and the region. Please join with the Board of Directors of the Montana Historical Society in supporting this project.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Siebel

“IMPORTANT FACTS”

WHY WE NEED A NEW MONTANA HISTORY CENTER

#1

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS SEARCHING FOR A NEW HOME.

THEY ARE NOW IN FOUR LOCATIONS

THE BUILDING ON ROBERTS WAS BUILT IN 1952 (NEEDS TO MUCH UPDATING)

THEY NOW PAY \$330,000 DOLLARS RENT FOR THREE OF THE BUILDINGS.

THEY ARE NOT EASILY ACCESSIBLE. FOR VISITORS AND TOURISTS

THERE IS NOT ENOUGH NEAR BY PARKING: TO BUILD PARKING SPACES IT IS EXTREMELY COSTLY

#2

ONCE IN A LIFE TIME OPPORTUNITY

HAVE OFFER TO BUY THIRTEEN ACRES OF PRIME REAL ESTATE PROPERTY

A BUILDING WITH 250,000 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE

ON ONE LEVEL:

CAN BE MADE INTO A GREAT HISTORY CENTER\

THERE ARE 750 PARKING SPACES

PERFECT LOCATION: 5 MINUTE WALK FROM THE CAPITOL

ON A MAIN HIGHWAY

MONTANA TOURISM CENTERPIECE

#3

ESTIMATED COST:

\$10,000,000, AND REMODEL OF THE CAPITAL HILL MALL IS \$31,445,000-

COMPARED TO \$63,000,000 FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION BIG SAVINGS

#4

STATE SHARE FUNDED;

NECESSARY FOR STRONG STATE SUPPORT : COULD BE SECURED IN A STATE

BONDING BILL (HB540) BY DIRECT APPROPRIATION . . THIS IS A WISE INVESTMENT

#5

WHY NOW?

THE PROPERTY FOR SALE HAS BEEN OFFERED TO THE STATE FOR A LIMITED TIME FRAME, WHICH EXPIRES JUNE, 2005

#6

EASY TRANSITION FROM THE MHS BUILDING TO THE NEW MONTANA HISTORY CENTER

IF THE PRESENT BUILDING WAS REMODELED ALL OF THE VALUABLE AND

PRECIOUS COLLECTIONS AND ARTIFACTS WOULD NEED TO BE MOVED AND

STORED, WHILE THE REMODELING AND BUILDING TOOK PLACE. A SECOND STORY

WITH A TOTAL OF ONLY 100,000 SQUARE FEET WOULD NOT BE NEARLY AS

SATISFACTORY. THE MHS WOULD BE CLOSED FOR PROBABLY 2 TO 3 YEARS.

WHILE THIS TOOK PLACE. MOVING TO THE NEW LOCATION COULD BE DONE IN STAGES.

#6

PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE STATE THE FOUNDATION HAS MEMBERS AND

FRIENDS OF MEMBERS IN A POSITION TO DONATE FUNDS AND ARE WILLING TO

RAISE \$MATCHING FUNDS AND MORE FOR THIS KIND OF A PROJECT.

#Lucky 7

CONCLUSION:

THIS IS A “ONCE IN A LIFE TIME “ OPPORTUNITY, AND WE MUST ACT NOW
PLEASE VOTE YES!!!!