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EXHIBIT 24  
DATE 2/8/2005  
HB \_\_\_\_\_

**February 3, 2005**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Montana State Fire Services Training School. Since accepting the position of Director of Fire Services for Butte-Silver Bow in January 2004, I have been extremely impressed with the services that the Butte-Silver Bow Fire Department has received from the State Fire Services Training School.

Whenever we call upon the instructors at the state school, our requests are always met with a timely response. The field instructors are extremely professional and very knowledgeable in their fields of expertise. The instructors are also very flexible in their schedules allowing us to train multiple career shifts as well as volunteer firefighters who require evening hour instruction.

I have also called and requested audiovisual training aids and those requests have been processed in a very timely and courteous manner.

Approximately five months ago, our department's Hurst "Jaws of Life" rescue tool's compressor failed. Due to the age of the equipment, we could not get parts to place the compressor back into service. Instructor Brian Crandel happened to be in Butte at the time, instructing a course. Upon learning of this, and getting the full blessing of Director Weedon, Brian delivered a State Fire Services Training School rescue tool to our department that very evening. We borrowed this tool for several months and it was in service on our rescue pumper. This "loaner" tool was utilized three different times while in service to removed entrapped vehicle crash victims. I really don't know where we would have been or what the outcome had we not had the tool. We have since purchased a new rescue tool and have returned the loaned tool to the state school. We will forever be indebted to the school for their unselfish recognition of our needs.

Being the chief of a combination career, volunteer provider of fire and emergency services, I can tell you that the State Fire Services Training School provides very much needed services to the fire service of Montana. Hats off to the dedicated men and women of the state school who spend countless hours away from their families and rack up untold miles on the road to keep Montana's great citizens safe through education and training for our firefighters. This all being accomplished on a very small budget that is always in jeopardy of being cut further.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Miller  
Butte-Silver Bow Director of Fire Services