

EXHIBIT 7
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January 19, 2005

Chairman John Sinrud
Subcommittee on General Government
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Representative Sinrun and Subcommittee Members,

In my conflict resolution and resource development work throughout the U.S. and the world, I have encountered thousands of service organizations. I can honestly state that the Montana Consensus Council is one of the most valuable organizations I have ever seen. I frequently mention the MCC as a superlative example of a much needed and highly skilled organization.

We have all come to realize that unresolved or poorly managed conflicts obstruct effectiveness and efficiency; drain away energy and time that could be devoted to constructive accomplishment; cost money through litigation and/or non-productivity; and damage relationships for both the present and the future. The MCC provides Montana and the region with a trusted and skilled resource to deal with conflicts effectively, improve relationships, and train individuals and groups in consensus building.

I believe Montana has shown vision and practical wisdom in establishing the supporting the MCC. Other states can learn from Montana's vision and wisdom. I wholeheartedly support the legislature in doing whatever it takes to help the MCC continue and enrich its valuable work.

Sincerely,



Dudley Weeks, Ph.D.
Director, The Center for Effective Partnership

Dr. Dudley Weeks is known worldwide for his work in conflict resolution. He has worked as a conflict resolution facilitator/mediator, advisor, and trainer in more than 100 countries for all sectors of society, including global and local nongovernmental organizations, global and regional governmental bodies, international and national leaders, communities, civic organizations, businesses, schools, churches, and a wide range of interested individuals. His training focuses on practical skills essential to effectiveness in conflict resolution, society building, leadership, and cooperative planning.

Dr. Weeks holds a PhD. In Political Science, and his writings have contributed to many fields. His books include *The Eight Essential Steps to Conflict Resolution*; *Conflict Partnership*; *The Unsteady State: Environmental Problems, Growth and Culture*; and *Humatriotism*. Dr. Weeks has received numerous international awards, including The United Nations of Youth PeaceBuilders Award and two nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Weeks was the subject of a BBC documentary in 1998. www.dudleyweeks.com