

Joint Long Range Planning  
Sub Committee  
January 11, 2005

EXHIBIT 1  
DATE 1/11/05  
HB 11

Mr/Ms Chairman, member of the committee, my name is Jack Knorr, I am the superintendent of Road & Bridges for Stillwater County. With over 850 miles of roads and 43 bridges, Stillwater County has an enormous task to provide a safe and efficient surface transportation system to its traveling public. The Treasure State Endowment Program is truly a god send in this arena. Small Counties, like Stillwater simply do not have a large enough tax base to replace costly structures like bridges. When a bridge is closed due to its deteriorating condition, hundreds of people can be affected. Emergency services as well as everyday necessities are put at risk. The funds provided by TSEP enable us to keep these people in touch with their communities. TSEP has provided millions of dollars to Stillwater and other communities to allow Montana's citizens to share the highways with their neighbors. Stillwater County's application will provide (7) seven new structures for our citizens to use. These structures allow access to fishing and recreational sites, allow farmers and ranchers access to their markets, and provide avenues for our children to go to school. Stillwater County has replaced over 50 bridges with local funds. Now, as we attempt to replace the bridges which are too expensive for our local taxes, we need help. TSEP has provided that help in the past and we respectfully request that this committee approve our application for the current project. We understand that funds are tight. We know that this legislature is faced with an enormous task to provide monies for a multitude of services, but without the funding that municipalities and counties receive from the TSEP program our infrastructure could not support these essential services. Once, again I ask this committee to recommend approval for all of the TSEP projects. Thank you for your time. I have provided written copies of this statement for the committee members.

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