



The Big Sky Country

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1/21/05
HB 7

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE JON C. SESSO
HOUSE DISTRICT 76

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January 20, 2005

Rep. Jack Wells, Chairman
Committee Members
Joint Appropriations Subcommittee
Long-Range Planning
59th Legislature

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
GENERAL GOVERNMENT
TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE

RE: Support Letter for RIT/RDGP Grant Proposals
Butte-Silver Bow

Dear Rep. Wells and Committee Members

On behalf of our residents of Butte, we wish to express our strong support for the two Reclamation and Development Grants submitted by the Butte-Silver Bow Local Government.

The first project, the Excelsior Reclamation Project, would be a significant improvement to our urban area. The area that would be reclaimed from mining impacts is right at one of the entrances to our community – the exit from the interstate to the Hospital and to Montana Tech – and we have tried for years to obtain funding for this work. We need the grant funds to finally get this project done.

The second project, the Belmont Subsidence Project, would allow us to address five very serious mine shaft safety problems. As reflected in the proposal, these shafts had been previously addressed in the 1980's under the State's abandoned mines program, but now the caps are failing, presenting liability and safety concerns. Again, the grant funds are vital to our community.

Your approval of these grants would be most appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jon C. Sesso
House District 76

Rep. George Groesbeck
House District 74

Rep. Art Noonan
House District 73

Rep. Jim Keane
House District 75

Sen. Dan Harrington
Senate District 38

Sen. Steve Gallus
Senate District 37