

EXHIBIT 9  
DATE 2/2/05  
HB 5

February 2, 2005

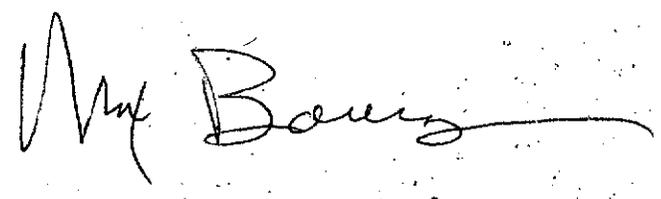
Montana State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Members of the 2005 Legislature:

It has come to my attention that Montana has a unique opportunity to expand the ability of the Montana Historical Society expand its ability to share the unique and important heritage of Montana by relocating to a larger facility through a public-private partnership.

As a former member of the State Legislature, I appreciate the kind of deliberations it takes to consider an opportunity of this magnitude and I thank you for putting in the time it takes to work on this important issue. Like all Montanans I have a keen interest in the history of our state and in making sure we utilize the tools available to share that history and culture with Montana school children, with the other residents of our great state and with the thousands of visitors who come to Montana every year to enjoy the last best place.

As you consider this project, I hope you know that you can count on me to work closely with you should there be an appropriate role for the federal government in the project. Thank you again for your service to Montana and for your consideration of this unique opportunity.



Dear Betty:

I read your email with great interest and was delighted to learn of the opportunity you described concerning the Montana Historical Society.

As I thought about the prospects of the proposal, and recalled discussions about the necessity for space for the Historical Society while I was serving in the governor's office, the notion that struck me was how fortunate this new development is. Learning about the proposal also reminded me that such moments as the one before the people of Montana now, fortuitous though they may be, are also extremely rare.

Montanans have always taken great pride in our mutual history, throughout which we have displayed a steadfast belief in each other and the promises of our future. How else could one explain, at the beginnings of statehood, the courageous decision, when assets were few and people were scarce, to build a glorious state capitol the State could not afford? Our state capitol is not only absolutely essential to the operations of our state government, and has been from the beginning, it is a source of inspiration and a repository of our shared history. But, it was a rare moment, when our ancestors made that fateful decision to invest in our future, and to this day we remain grateful for their insight and courage.

Each generation, it seems, has its chances to impact the future and write its own history. My great hope is that this generation of Montanans will display the same strength and optimism as those who set our course in the past. Having personally considered these issues in the past, and knowing how difficult it is to find the resources necessary to address all our needs, I, nonetheless, would still strongly recommend moving forward with the Montana Historical Society/ Capital Hill Shopping Center proposal.

As always, I extend my best wishes and warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Marc Racicot

Marc Racicot  
Partner  
Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.  
2000 K ST NW, STE 500

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2603  
(202) 224-2844

February 1, 2005

2005 Montana State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

I am writing today in support of the proposed expansion for the Montana Historical Society.

The Montana Historical Society Museum and Public Repository of History are one of the state's most significant heritage tourism attractions. About 100,000 people a year from across Montana, the nation, and the world, visit the Society to enjoy the museum and use its resources for research. These facilities are over 50+ years old and do not meet safety codes for storing or displaying archives. They also face serious security and public safety concerns. Only a small percentage of the state's valuable collection can be exhibited. Space for public and school group gatherings for learning about and viewing our history is inadequate or nonexistent, and proper conservation of the irreplaceable collections cannot occur in the small work spaces that currently exist.

The development of a new Montana History Center would be the most extraordinary and significant gift to Montana and its citizens, and will create a lasting legacy for future generations. I hope that you share in the knowledge what a precious value our history has in our rich Montana heritage, and support the effort of this statewide campaign.

These are the people's treasures, and the care of those archives from generation to generation is dependent upon what we do today.

Sincerely,



Conrad Burns  
United States Senator

CRB/bta

February 1, 2005

Arnie Olsen, Director  
Montana Historical Society  
P.O. Box 201201  
225 North Roberts  
Helena, MT 59620-1201

Dear Friends:

It is a privilege to offer my support and encouragement to the Montana Historical Society in your efforts to secure funding to move to the 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue mall site in Helena.

Since the Montana Historical Society has outgrown its current building and is in need of more room, this is a unique opportunity for you and I wish you the best as you embark upon this endeavor.

Understanding the past helps us feel connected to generations of long ago and gives our lives deeper meaning; an understanding of our past gives us a better foundation to face our future. Education, especially education that teaches an appreciation of the past, is a key to the preservation of our freedom and civilization. The Montana Historical Society provides and supports this kind of education. I appreciate your dedication to your work.

Adequate space for the Montana Historical Society is important. I support your efforts to raise funds for a new site.

Sincerely,

DENNY REHBERG  
Montana's Congressman

DRR/twd

**TED SCHWINDEN**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**January 5, 1981 - January 1, 1989**

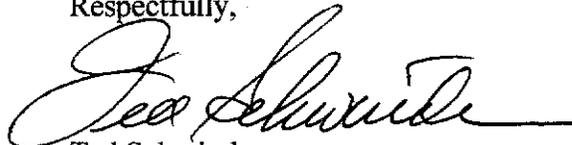
January 27, 2005

With an admitted bias that derives naturally from seven years of studying history in college, I enthusiastically support the effort to fund the expansion of the Montana Historical Society and Museum.

One measure of the commitment of a society to protect, and to respect, its heritage and culture is a willingness to create and support institutions that focus on those objectives. The current reputation of the Society, Museum and its publications and outreach speaks well of the desire of the people of the Treasure State to appropriately fund those activities.

As Montana now moves forward in the second century of its statehood, it is time to initiate the steps needed to keep our commitment to our past...and our future.

Respectfully,

  
Ted Schwinden



February 1, 2005

Montana State Senators, Members of the House of Representatives.  
2005 State Legislature,  
State Capitol, Helena, MT 59620

I have been a member of the Montana Historical Foundation for about 14 years or more. So I am aware that the Montana Historical Society is crowded to the point of no return and something needs to be done almost immediately.

My wife Betty, has told me of an unexpected opportunity that has been presented to you. As legislators you have the chance to make a historic decision that could benefit generations to come. To acquire 13 acres of land and a building within walking distance of the Capitol is almost an unbelievable stroke of luck. A piece of real-estate that size, right exactly where you want it with a building that can be remodel to meet the needs of the MHS is something I don't think we can afford to pass up.

When Betty and I purchased and restored the Hauser Mansion, home of the territorial Governor of Montana, we met John Dehass, Professor of Design and History, School of architecture, Montana State University, who is an authority on restoration and preservation. Betty had also worked on the restoration of the Old Governor's Mansion. This is what was said by DeHaas: "Helena is probably by far the richest city in its architectural heritage in the Western Part of the United States.

Montana's historical buildings reflect the economic, social, and political condition of the period and are an accurate barometer of the taste of the people. The value to the state as a historic landmark is immense." DeHass pointed out that the Thomas Edison birth-place in Milan, Ohio (population 1,400) brings more than 25,000 visitors annually. "Americans are becoming more interested in our western history and will drive thousands of miles to see authentic places and museums."

The curator of the Old Governor's Mansion in 1975 to July 4, 1982 reported to Betty they had 35,080 visitors and were expecting 5000 more that year.

Having built and managed the Colonial Inn, I know how important the Tourism Industry is to the citizens of Montana. As it says in the brochure, The "Montana History Center" will be a "Montana Tourism Centerpiece". It won't just benefit Helena, but will help our economic development throughout the state. Those who come here will have to cover a lot of territory coming and going and in doing so, they will spend a little money along the way. I have no doubt in my mind that people will drive miles to visit The Montana History Center, if for no other reason than to see the newly acquired Scriver Collection.

I'm glad to add my name to the list of other supporters. I understand that the US. Senators Baucus and Burns, Congressman Dennis Rehberg, and former Governors Ted Schwinden and Marc Racicot are also supporting the purchase of the Capitol Hill Mall, for the creation of the "Montana History Center".

I hope when it is complete, the bucking horse by Scriver, the "Symbol of the Pros" will be placed very near the front entrance so the tourist and all who come there will see it the first thing. I urge your support and my best wishes for success with this project.

Sincerely,



Tim M. Babcock.

Former Governor of the State of Montana

Testimony for Joe Mazurek  
Long Range Planning Committee  
February 2, 2005

Chairman Wells, members of the committee, for the record my name is Joe Mazurek. Along with Betty Babcock, I am the co-chair of the steering committee for the new Montana History Center. I stand here today in support of a financial commitment on the part of the State of Montana for this project.

People are judged by the opportunities set before them and how they respond to those opportunities. Our courage as a people is evident in the manuscripts, photos, art, and buildings of this great state. Many of those testaments to courage are entrusted to the Montana Historical Society for their care. Montanans have donated their most treasured family possessions to a facility that can no longer house them-- let alone display them. The current home of the Montana Historical Society has served us well-- but our collective past has simply outgrown it.

There is an opportunity just a few blocks north of that facility calling all of us to action. We do not have time to wait. We need the courage to move forward today. We will always have financial concerns and we will always have road blocks; sometimes, we need to just move forward. This is one of those times.

I am asking you as committee members to have the courage to take this once in a lifetime opportunity. Stand up like those of us in this room and say our collective history is too important to continue to box up and stack away.

Please provide the seed money and allow Montanans the opportunity to do the rest. We believe we can match whatever you give us dollar for dollar with private contributions to make this exciting project viable.

Thank you for your time, your serious consideration, and, hopefully, your support.