



Montana Shakespeare in the Parks

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EXHIBIT 8
DATE 2/10/05
HB 9

February 10, 2005

TO: Long Range Planning Committee

FR: Joel Jahnke, Artistic Director-Montana Shakespeare in the Parks

RE: Prepared statement to provide testimony in support of Cultural and Aesthetic Project Grant #1177- Operational Support

Mister Chairman, Members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Joel Jahnke. I am the Artistic Director of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks located in Bozeman, but serving the entire state of Montana. I am testifying on behalf of grant number 1177 requesting funding for an operational support grant.

Since 1973, Shakespeare in the Parks has presented nearly 1,700 performances to an audience of over half a million people and in doing so has become a summer tradition all across the state. Rather than belabor you with statistics however, I would rather present a short video segment from the Montana PBS series Backroads of Montana which aired last fall. This video will give you a much better idea of who we are, what we do and the positive relationships we have enjoyed with our audiences for thirty two summers.

[Video presentation]

As you have seen, Shakespeare in the Parks has become an important summer event in Birney. This is typical of the response we receive particularly in smaller communities and this grant will help ensure that the tradition will continue. Given Shakespeare in the Parks history of excellence and long standing record of serving the entire state, we believe that this proposal is perfectly appropriate to the intent of the Cultural and Aesthetic grant program. Thank you for your time and this opportunity to testify.