

MEMBER LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

INCORPORATED 1913

CITY OF CHOTEAU

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EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1.24.05
HB 69

January 24, 2005

Representative Jim Peterson, Chair
Natural Resources Committee
FAX: 406-444-4825

Re: HB69

Dear Representative Peterson:

We are writing in opposition to HB69. The reallocation of DNRC public facilities grant funds would virtually eliminate that program and would negatively impact small communities that have used the program. Within the City of Choteau, the DNRC public facilities grants have provided partial funding for a sewer improvement project and the installation of water meters. We are in the running for a grant this year for a water line replacement project.

These funds are very important to small communities as they allow projects to move ahead but not create a financial burden for the citizens. Losing this critical funding for infrastructure improvements will not only be a hardship for Choteau but for many other communities throughout Montana.

The funding of water adjudication is also an important issue, but we feel that there are alternatives. One of these is presented in HB22, which would create a fee-based process.

We support funding of water adjudication, but not at the loss of the public facilities grant program.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Clark
Mayor

cc: Representative Rick Ripley