

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 7

The following exhibit is several assorted documents that exceeds the 10-page limit therefore it cannot be scanned. A small portion has been scanned to aid in your research for information. The exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.

Montana Historical Society Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-1201; phone (406) 444-4774. For minutes in paper format, please contact the Montana State Law Library, Justice Building, 215 N. Sanders, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-3660. Tapes and exhibits are also available at the Historical Society (tapes are retained for five years). Scanning done by: Susie Hamilton

Cities and Towns in support of SB237 (Yellow Section)

Baker
Bridger
Chester
Choteau
Colstrip
Denton
Ekalaka
Eureka
Fort Benton
Geraldine
Hamilton
Harlowton
Hingham
Hot Springs
Jordan
Judith Gap
Kalispell
Lodge Grass
Manhattan
Melstone
Miles City
Plains
Red Lodge
Shelby
Three Forks
Thompson Falls
Townsend
Whitefish
Wibaux

Counties in support of SB237 (Blue Section)

Blaine County
Fallon County
Flathead County
Madison County
Sheridan County
Toole County



February 15, 2005

Montana Legislative Assembly
Helena, Montana

Members of the Montana Legislature:

On January 3, 2005, the City Council of the City of Whitefish approved a unanimous motion expressing their support for legislation now known as SB237. The Council's motion directed staff to pursue creation of SB237. The Whitefish City Council supports this bill because it will promote transparency and fiscal accountability in the use of public funds resulting in lower overall costs for local governments when hiring architects, engineers and land surveyors.

Sincerely,

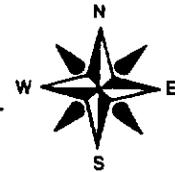
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary B. Marks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G".

Gary B. Marks
City Manager



COMMUNITY SERVICES & PLANNING

Grants & Contracts-Environmental-Flood Plain-Planning-Safety-Zoning



CITY OF MILES CITY, MONTANA

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(406) 232-6392 (fax)
jmarks@milescity-mt.org

January 27, 2005

Mayor Grenz
City Council Members
City of Miles City

RE: Support for LC1724, Proposed Legislative Change in the Selection Process of Professional Services

The legislation proposed by Gary Marks of the City of Whitefish would be a substantial improvement to the legal process that we must follow in the process of selecting architects, engineers and surveyors. The different departments of the City of Miles City undergo this selection process for professional services frequently, at least five times in the past year. Being able to include the professional fees as a factor in the initial selection process would reduce the amount of valuable staff time required to complete the selection.

Typically, the selection of a professional service covers a broad range of services with different rate structures. Under current state law we are forced to consider the range of available services offered by each applicant, but not consider fees charged for those services until we have selected the professional firm.

We, the staff members of Miles City have reviewed the proposed legislation and emphatically urge the City of Miles City to endorse this legislation and join the City of Whitefish and other communities in their efforts to improve the professional services selection process.

Respectfully,

Engineering & Operations

Utilities Distribution

Water & Sewer Treatment Plants

City/County Planning

Housing Authority

Airport

RESOLUTION NO. 3047

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MILES CITY EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DRAFT BILL LC 1724 AND REQUESTING THAT THE MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE ADOPTS LC 1724 AND PRESENTS IT TO THE GOVERNOR FOR SIGNING.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILES CITY, MONTANA:

WHEREAS, the cost of employing architects, engineers, and land surveyors represents a significant expense to many Montana cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, current State law, notably Section 18-8-204, MCA, prohibits cities and town from considering fee structures and projected fees, together with other lawful factors, when making an initial selection of a firm considered most qualified to provide architectural, engineering, and land surveying services; and

WHEREAS, current State law requires Montana cities and towns to make an initial selection of the firm most qualified to provide services without reference to potential fee structures or projected fees, and then attempt to negotiate a contract with the first firm selected; and

WHEREAS, allowing Montana cities and towns the option and advantage of competitive price comparison, as a factor of their overall consultant evaluation and selection processes, will promote financial transparency and fiscal accountability in the use of public funds; and

WHEREAS, allowing Montana cities and towns the option to consider fee structures and projected fees, along with other lawful factors, in making an initial selection of the most qualified firm to provide architectural, engineering, and land surveying services, will increase efficiency and transparency to the public, and result in lower overall costs for cities and town when hiring such professionals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Miles City as follows:

Section 1: The recitals set forth above are adopted as findings of fact.

Section 2: The City of Miles City expresses its support for LC 1724 and requests that the Montana State Legislature adopts LC 1724 and presents it to the Governor for signing.

Section 3: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF MILES CITY ON THIS 8TH DAY OF
FEBRUARY, 2005.

C.A. Grenz

C.A. Grenz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia D. Huss

Patricia D. Huss, City Clerk
Deputy