

BILLINGS

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE®

SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 4

DATE 3-24-05

BILL NO. SB 517

Montana's Largest City Thanks You for Your Support of the Tourism Industry!

VISITORS WILL SPEND OVER \$300,000,000 IN BILLINGS THIS YEAR

Of that, 73% or \$219,000,000 will come from nonresident visitors

For every \$14 spent by a nonresident visitor, \$1 is contributed to state and local taxes

For every \$3 spent by a nonresident visitor,

\$1 is contributed to the salary of a local worker who is also paying taxes

Nonresident visitor spending is new money injected into Montana's economy

TOURISM IS BIG BUSINESS IN MONTANA'S BIGGEST CITY!

The Magic City's tourism industry is not the only industry contributing to Montana's economy through visitors to the city. As a regional hub, Billings has one of the largest trade areas in the country (125,000 square miles) which broadens the scope of our contribution to the state.

Among our greatest accomplishments are corporation headquarters, agricultural processing and sales, the largest retail industry in a 500 mile radius, the largest educational system in Montana as well as the majority of our region, medical facilities that rank in the top ten Nation wide and an exporter of energy. All of these industries bring visitors into the city for various reasons.

Billings is all about business! Included in our treat for you today we incorporated "treats" from many tourism's partner industries plus Springhill Inn and Suites donated Milano cookies for staff and pages.

• Agriculture

❖ The Billings Area Hotel Motel Association, the state's oldest, largest and strongest lodging association, is also one the biggest supporters of other industries in the city. Most of the members of the association purchase use local suppliers and Montana made products. The association sponsored two items in your "treat" bag:

- Carmel Cookie Waffles, baked especially for you by world renowned Billings bakery, Dutch Brothers Bakery Goods, who are bringing global dollars to Montana.
- A Micro Beer, brewed by nationally recognized Yellowstone Valley Brewing, many of the company's beer's have won national awards.

❖ Sugar from Western Sugar Company, a native Montana business that is owned and operated by the employees.

• Education

❖ Second graders from the Billings Catholic Schools and School District 2 drew you a picture depicting their favorite place in Billings on a placemat provided by Food Services of America one of the largest food distributors in the region.

❖ Rulers from Montana State University – Billings to help you draw straight lines and measure your success.

❖ Notepads from Montana State University – Billings Foundation so you will have the ability to take notes from your constituents.

• Corporate

❖ Pens from the Stockman Bank so you will always have the ability to sign a good bill.

• Tourism

❖ T-shirts and tickets to the Lewis and Clark themed Montana Fair at MetraPark, the largest event in the state, so you will have the ability to relax after the session with 250,000 of your closest friends.

❖ T-shirts from Big Sky State Games, the second largest event in Montana that hosts athletes from all over the country, to remind you to take time to take care of yourself during the session.

