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To: House Appropriations Committee
Rep. John Sinrud, Chair

Re: SB 42 Revise Economic Development Programs

As the Executive Director of the Butte Local Development Corporation and an economic development practitioner, I work with many economic development programs on a daily basis. The following programs are the most useful and effective programs with which I have worked.

- ❖ Small Business Development Centers
- ❖ Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
- ❖ Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology
- ❖ Montana International Trade and Relations Bureau
- ❖ Certified Regional Development Corporations
- ❖ Montana Growth through Agriculture
- ❖ Montana Cooperative Development Center

These programs serve very important functions in a great variety of areas. They offer assistance to Montanans trying to start a new business, existing Montana businesses trying to stay in business or expand their markets, companies involved in everything from high technology to modern agriculture. The state funding for these programs are leveraged with other monies from the federal government and private business. It is extremely important to eliminate the sunset date on these programs so that they can continue to serve Montanans across our great state.

I appreciate your support on this very important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Jim Smitham
Executive Director.



Montana Economic Developers Association

118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A Anaconda, MT 59711
ph: 406.563.5259 fx: 406.563.5476

March 31, 2007

TO: HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
John Sinrud, Chair

Re: SB42 Revise Economic Development Programs

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) represents over 200 professionals who work for local economic development organizations across the State of Montana. At our fall conference held in Havre, we finalized our agenda for the current legislative session. *Of highest priority to our membership is the removal of the 2010 sunset for key economic development programs including:*

- ❖ Small Business Development Centers
- ❖ Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
- ❖ Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology
- ❖ Montana International Trade and Relations Bureau
- ❖ Certified Regional Development Corporations
- ❖ Montana Growth through Agriculture
- ❖ Montana Cooperative Development Center

It is crucial for the 2010 sunset to be removed from these programs so that the tremendous work resulting from these programs can continue. An Impact Report was compiled by Montana Economic Developers Association that summarizes the performance and outcomes of these key program tools. A copy of this report is being made available to you and it is available online at <http://www.medamembers.org/ImpactReport.pdf>

On behalf of MEDA,

Rick Edwards, President

Cc: MEDA Board of Directors

JOIN US AT <http://www.medamembers.org>

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March 31, 2007

TO: HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
John Sinrud, Chair

Re: SB42 Revise Economic Development Programs

I apologize for not being present to testify before this committee in favor of SB42. These programs are an important part in the growth and development of Montana's economy. Montana is exceptional in that it has six very successful programs to lead its economic development future.

I feel fortunate to have played a role in this work being a former founder and president of two successful Montana entrepreneurial companies, Chairman of the Governor's task force for Research and Development and a member of the R&C Board.

I feel it is highly important the committee recognize these programs create wealth, wealth creates income, income pay taxes, taxes support education, education develops our most valuable product – our children-, the developed wealth provides jobs for these educated children, the children create more wealth to grow future generations.

Montana was delinquent as to creating growth from 1960 to 1990 and we have suffered from the result. In the 1990's we started over. This bill is directed to a continuation of that growth.

I urge the Committee to support SB42 with a 100% vote. Thank you for your consideration.


Ralph L. Hutcheson
Montana Ambassador
Bozeman, MT 59715

TWO RIVERS ECONOMIC GROWTH

A coalition for the future development of Valley County
74 4th Street North, Glasgow, Montana 59230 406-228-3937 phone 406-228-8793 fax

April 1, 2007

TO: HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Re: SB42 Revise Economic Development Programs

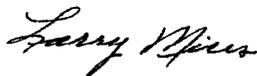
Two Rivers Economic Growth is a very small local economic development organization serving Glasgow and Valley County. The programs served by SB42 allow us the opportunity to provide services to individuals and business in our area that we would otherwise be without. Key economic development programs provided in SB42 include:

- ❖ Small Business Development Centers
- ❖ Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
- ❖ Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology
- ❖ Montana International Trade and Relations Bureau
- ❖ Certified Regional Development Corporations
- ❖ Montana Growth through Agriculture
- ❖ Montana Cooperative Development Center

It is essential for the 2010 sunset to be removed from these programs so that the tremendous work resulting from these programs can continue. An Impact Report was compiled by Montana Economic Developers Association that summarizes the performance and outcomes of these key program tools. A copy of this report is available to you online at <http://www.medamembers.org/ImpactReport.pdf>. With your help and support of SB42 we will be able to continue these very successful programs for ALL of Montana.

Thank you for your dedicated service to Montana.

Respectfully,



Larry Mires,



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 Ph: (406) 447-1510 • Fax: (406) 447-1514
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EXHIBIT
 DATE 4-2-07
 48

Sheldon Barzel, Executive Director
 Sheli Jacoby, Executive Assistant/Loan Technician
 Chris Brave, Administrative Assistant
 Dan Anderson, SBDC Coordinator
 Bob Vanek, Microbusiness Development Center

April 2, 2007

Members of the House Appropriations Committee
 Montana Legislature

Re: SB 42 Revise Economic Development Programs

Dear House Appropriations Committee:

Montana Business Assistance Connection, a MT Certified Regional Development Corporation, urges the Appropriations Committee to support SB 42 by repealing the 2010 sunset for certain economic development programs. Losing any of these economic development programs would gut the State's ability to proactively service the development needs of employing and non-employing businesses. These programs are vital and critical elements for us to meet the needs of development needs of micro and small businesses in our service area.

Thank you

Sheldon Barzel
 Executive Director

Bob Fusie
 President
 Kathy Ernst
 Vice President
 Tony Murnion
 Treasurer
 Mike Mundt
 Secretary
 Eric Schindler
 Past President
 Jamie Doggett
 Meagher County Commissioner
 Jim Hohn
 Broadwater County Commissioner
 Alan Fuera
 City of Helena Commissioner
 Ed Tinsley
 Lewis & Clark County Commissioner
 Anthony Strainer
 City of East Helena
 Mary Alice Upton
 City of Townsend

Gary Bye
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 Retired
 Sheila Hogan
 CTV Business Resource Center
 Roxanne Bultard
 Helena Job Service
 John Grant
 Jackson, Murdo, Grant & McFarland, P.C.
 C.W. "Skip" Hatvelot
 Retired
 Mark Huber
 US Bank
 Steve Mandeville
 Coldwell Banker, Almann Brothers
 Ron Mercer
 Helena Regional Airport Authority
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 Helena Public Schools
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 Terry Spangler
 Wells Fargo
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 Carroll College
 Mignon Waterman
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 Jim Cottini
 Coldwell Banker, Almann Brothers
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 Hal Jacobson
 House of Representatives
 Pat Schlauch
 Helena Independent Record
 Jason Merkel
 NorthWestern Energy
 Daniel Bingham
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 Michele Steele
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 Home Depot
 Jim Maierle
 Morrison-Maierle Inc.
 Jim Slipcich
 Student Assistance Foundation
 Linda Kindrick
 Montana Community Finance Corp.
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