



February 7, 2007

Re: HB 499

Representative Scott Mendenhall, Chairman  
Business and Labor Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Representative Mendenhall and members of the committee:

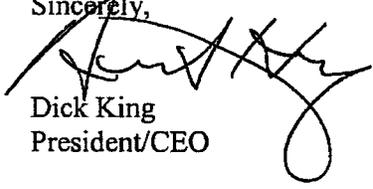
I am writing today to encourage your support for HB 499, which would increase the likelihood that Montana-based companies could benefit from technology districts created by a local governing body.

Our organization worked closely with Missoula County to create the state's first Technology District. The anchor tenant for that district is DIRECTV, which has created 650 jobs to date. The company is on track to create 950 new jobs by mid-2007. But, DIRECTV's facility occupies only part of the technology district. Our organization helps the County to market this property, and HB 499 has been written to expand the eligibility criteria for companies and organizations interested in locating in such a district. The expansion is specifically addressed to apply to Montana-based companies.

This revision in the statute will enhance the ability of organizations like us, and the local governments we work with, to assist existing Montana companies.

We urge the Committee to give this bill a "do pass" recommendation.

Sincerely,



Dick King  
President/CEO