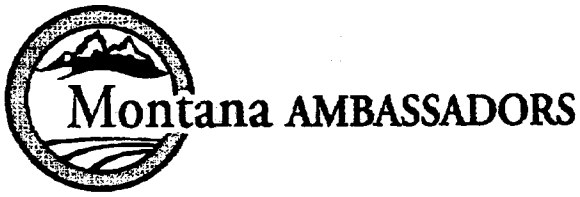
EXHIBIT 12
DATE 3/12/07
SB 152



The MONTANA AMBASSADORS
a volunteer, not-for-profit organization of leaders in business, education, and the professions with a common dedication to living and doing business in Montana and furthering the best interests of the state, serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

March 12, 2007

TO: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
RICK JORE, Chair

Re: SB152 Education Funding

Montana Ambassadors is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization whose members include over 150 leaders in business, education, and government. As an organization, the Montana Ambassadors is dedicated to helping develop Montana's business environment. One of the Montana Ambassador's five missions is to: "*Develop relationships with educational institutions, agencies and systems that foster the economic vitality of Montana's work force and enhance the quality of life for its citizens.*"

Montana Ambassadors believe that for an individual to reach his or her potential in life there must be affordable opportunities for life long education. As Montana's workforce ages, educational opportunities must expand and be prepared to accommodate gaps in our workforce needs. As business leaders, we know first hand that life long education is essential to sustain and elevate Montana's economy.

We urge you to expand the Governor's Best and Brightest postsecondary scholarship program to provide aid on the basis of need and merit to Montana residents for two and four year postsecondary institutions. These scholarships need to be allocated in areas of study to promote economic development and address critical workforce shortage areas in Montana.

The Montana Ambassadors thank you for your consideration as we work together to serve the people of Montana.

Sincerely,

Rick Edwards
President

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