

EXHIBIT 6
DATE 03/21/07
SB 123



Montana Economic Developers Association

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ph: 406.563.5259 fx: 406.563.5476

March 14, 2007

TO: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Rick Jore, Chair

RE: SB123 Full Time Kindergarten

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) represents more than 200 economic development professionals that work throughout the State. Most of our members work for local economic development organizations that are supported by private sector businesses and local governmental entities. We all have different priorities, but we share a strong common interest: building a better economy for Montana citizens.

This letter is sent to encourage your support of SB123 to provide full time Kindergarten to Montana's children. Studies show that in the short term, Montana's youngest students would benefit educationally, socially and emotionally from a full time program.

In the long term, Montana's economy would benefit from a full time Kindergarten program. With an aging population and in the face of current trained workforce shortages, it is critical for Montana's education system to prepare its youth for the employment needs of Montana's future.

To support and encourage economic development in Montana, we encourage you to support SB123.

Sincerely,

Rick Edwards
President

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

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Montana AMBASSADORS

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.

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Rick Jore, Chair

Re: SB123 Full Time Kindergarten

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."*

The Montana Ambassadors believe that workforce training is among the most pressing issues facing our state. We believe that workforce training is the lynchpin for Montana's future economic growth, and that one way to begin improving workforce training is to make all day kindergarten available to Montana students. If we start our young people out with the earliest educational opportunities possible, we will be establishing the foundation for their future learning and for their development of marketable skills.

The Montana Ambassadors strongly support efforts by the Office of Public Instruction and the Governor to fully fund all day kindergarten for those school districts who wish to join in this process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Edwards,
President

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