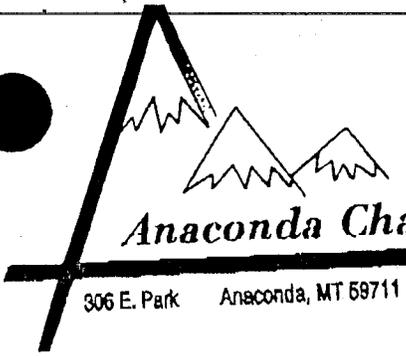


EXHIBIT 7

DATE 1/9/07

HS 2



**Anaconda Chamber of Commerce**

306 E. Park Anaconda, MT 59711 Phone (406) 563-2400 FAX (406) 563-2400

January 8, 2007

Fax 406-841-2728

Ann Desch  
Montana Dept. of Commerce  
Business Resources Division  
301 S. Park Avenue  
P.O. Box 200505  
Helena MT 59620-0505

RE: Montana Main Street Program

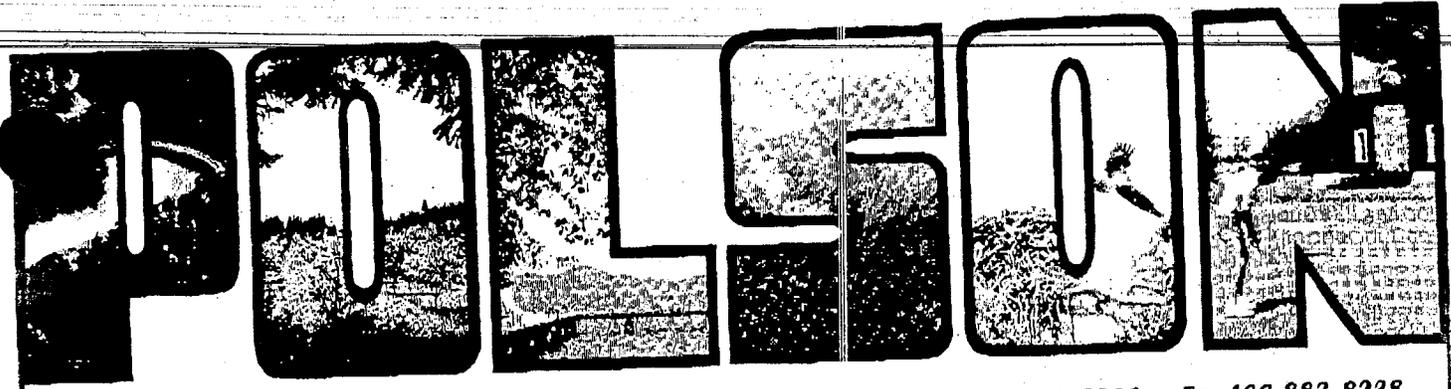
The Anaconda Chamber of Commerce supports the Montana Main Street Program.

The Anaconda Main Street Program is just getting started, with the results from the resource team submitted to us in October, with issues that are important to school children and to their elders.

Support for the Main Street Committee is strong in the community and we feel given time to develop plans to implement ideas developed from the resource teams suggestions the Main Street Project will be vital to Anaconda.

Sincerely,

Mike Richards, President  
Edith Fransen, Executive Director



CITY OF POLSON • P.O. Box 238 • Polson, Montana 59860-0238 • Telephone 406-883-8200 • Fax 406-883-8238

PLEASE NOTE: NEW MAILING ADDRESS: 106 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET EAST, POLSON, MONTANA 59860-2137

EXHIBIT 7

DATE 1/9/07

HB 2

1/5/2007

Chairman Rick Ripley  
 Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Commerce  
 Montana Department of Commerce  
 Business Resources Division  
 301 S. Park Ave.  
 P.O. Box 200505  
 Helena, MT 59620-0505

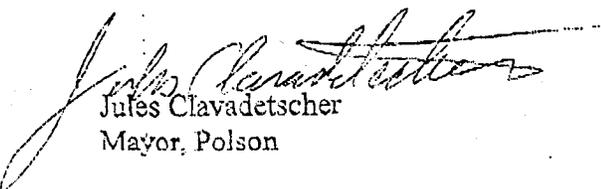
Fax: Attention Ann Desch: 406-841-2728

Dear Chairman Ripley:

As Mayor of the City of Polson, I want to communicate my full support for the Montana Main Street Program. Although our community only recently received our designation, it has assisted us in preparing design guidelines for our central business district. We now also have a façade grant program complete with an application process that came about as part of our Main Street designation.

Polson is experiencing growth and the corresponding development of big box stores and shopping away from our downtown. This program assists our local merchants in developing a strategy to enhance the appeal of our downtown. We are using the Main Street Program to help us preserve historical buildings and create an attractive business environment.

Sincerely,

  
 Jules Clavadetscher  
 Mayor, Polson



City Manager  
Edwin R. Meece  
(406) 222-2005 phone  
(406) 222-6823 fax  
citymanager@ci.livingston.mt.us  
ci.livingston.mt.us

Chairman  
Steve Caldwell  
Vice Chairman  
Vicki Blakeman  
Commissioners  
Mary Beebe  
Bob Ebinger  
Patricia Grabow

January 8, 2007

Representative Rick Ripley  
(Chair) Subcommittee on Natural Resources & Commerce  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Chairman Ripley:

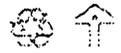
As the newest Main Street city in Montana, the City of Livingston wishes to encourage the State of Montana's continued budgetary support for this important program. The Main Street program has taken a leadership role, on a national level, in helping communities re-position themselves for increased economic and social vitality. Their combination of resources, expertise, and networking has been critical to the success of many such downtown efforts - several in Montana.

Livingston recently initiated a strategic downtown partnership of business owners, property owners, residents, and public officials/agencies to address the challenges and opportunities facing our core business district. Our acceptance as a Main Street city is an important piece of this effort. Already, the assessment and planning requirements of the Main Street program have established a framework for moving the interests of these diverse stakeholders forward on several issues.

Please contact me, at your convenience, if we can provide additional information on this very important topic.

Respectfully,

C: Livingston City Commission  
Ann Desch, MT Department of Commerce  
Representative Bob Ebinger





**RARUS**  
RAILWAY COMPANY

EXHIBIT 7  
DATE 1/9/07  
HB 2

January 8, 2007.

Ref: MONTANA MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Chairman Ricky Ripley  
Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Commerce

Main Street Montana is slowly dying throughout our great State, nowhere is that more evident than in Anaconda. Businesses 50 years old and more have closed in recent years unable to compete with the "big box stores" and the shopping malls. The result is a devastated tax base, unemployment and an important section of our city that is slowly going unoccupied and becoming an eyesore. Main Street Montana is perhaps a "last best hope" to breath life back into this backbone of the small rural community. I believe it is extremely important to support this program in all ways possible to encourage small business to remain in the business district of downtown, the lifeblood of small towns throughout Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas D. McCarthy".

Thomas D. McCarthy  
Administrative Manager  
Rarus Railway co.  
Anaconda, Mt. 59711