



South Eastern Montana Development Corporation

Growing Montana ~ One Job at a Time

EXHIBIT 11
DATE 1/9/07
HB 2
6200 Main Street
P.O. Box 1935
Colstrip, MT 59323
Phone/Fax (406) 748-2990
E-mail: semdc@bhwi.net
Website: www.semdc.org

January 8, 2007

Rep. Rick Ripley, Chairman
Natural Resources and Commerce
Joint Appropriations Subcommittee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

**RE: Letter of Support for Montana Department of Commerce
from Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC)**

Dear Chairman Ripley and Joint Appropriations Subcommittee Members:

I would like to express my support and endorsement for the Montana Department of Commerce Budget, Goals and Objectives from the Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC). This is specific to the Coal Board and the CDBG Economic Development and Housing Programs.

As you may know, SEMDC is the Certified Regional Development Corporation (CRDC) for this region. SEMDC is a regional non-profit economic development group that was established in 1997 to simulate and encourage economic activity in the four Counties of **Custer, Powder River, Rosebud and Treasure**. Today SEMDC continues to work passionately with the private, the non-profit and the public sectors to help create and retain jobs in these four counties. Our track record has documented over 519 jobs created and retained with over \$11 million dollars in project assistance since 1997.

This SEMDC region also has an Economic Development District designation from the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The Coal Board and the CDBG program are major and I repeat major "Tools in the SEMDC Toolbox." These tools provide impact funds and assistance to rural and economic challenged parts of our state that otherwise would go without.

I assure you that the economic activity generated by such a positive relationship and productive partnership with the **Montana Department of Commerce** is a major benefit to the residents and businesses of not only southeastern Montana but of all Montana.

Sincerely,

Jim Atchison
Executive Director