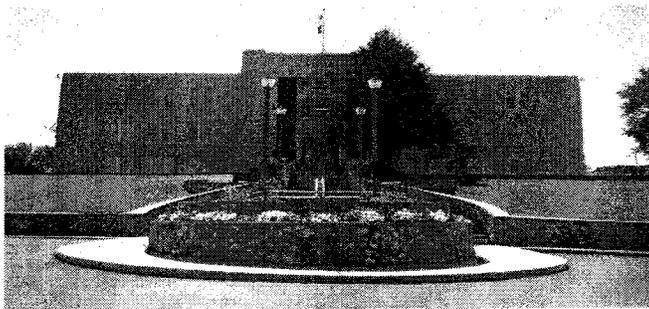


Ben Ober,
Commission Chairman
Allan Underdal,
Commissioner
Dave Miller,
Commissioner
Merle Raph,
County Attorney
Donna Matoon,
Sheriff
Dan B. Whitted,
Coroner
Commissioners
Office# 406-424-8310
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Mary Ann Harwood,
Clerk & Recorder
Sandra Peers,
Clerk of Court
Boyd Jackson,
Treasurer/Assessor
Supt. Of Schools
Helen I. Schnee,
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Justice of the Peace
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COUNTY OF TOOLE

226 1ST Street South
Toole County Courthouse, Shelby, MT 59474

PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY

Exhibit No. 9
Date 2-2-07
Bill No. SB 118

To: Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety Committee – Dan Weinberg, Chair

From: Allan Underdal, Toole County Commissioner

Date: February 1, 2007

Subject: Senate Bill 118

Toole County would like to take this opportunity to ask for your support of **SB 118**. This bill is important to our local hospital, Marias Medical Center in Shelby, which is a County owned facility. It is also very important to the other hospitals around the state of Montana. Rural hospitals have a very hard time maintaining a positive cash flow, and the Hospital Facility Utilization Fee is one very useful tool to help make that a reality.

We support both reauthorizing as well as increasing this fee so that our local hospitals can all benefit to a greater degree. We would appreciate your committee's support of this important bill.

Respectfully,

Allan Underdal