



EXHIBIT 9
DATE Feb 4, 09
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January 29, 2009

Rep. Dave Kasten, Chair
Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Kasten:

Please share this letter of support with the other members of your Subcommittee and enter it into the public record.

On January 29, the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning heard the parks division of FWP put forth its capital budget request for the upcoming biennium. Montana Rail Link (MRL) is working with the parks division of FWP to improve railroad crossings as part of enhancing public safety and transportation issues at Fishing Access Sites and to a lesser extent State Parks. This is a relatively new and positive development. It is also a dialogue and cooperative relationship we want to help make sure is successful to everyone's benefit, especially the public which uses these facilities.

While MRL could not be in attendance at the hearing, we understand that HB 5 includes funding requested from the parks division for both the FAS and State Parks that would help fund crossing improvements. MRL would like to go on the record as supporting this request and asks that the committee vote in support for the benefit of all users of these public facilities.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Keller
Chief Engineer

SRW:tjm

RK/C-4438....State Highway General