SENATE TAXATION
EXHIBIT NO. 7
DATE 4.6.09
BILL NO. HB631

Montana Economic Developers Association

118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A Anaconda, MT 59711
ph: 406.563.5259 fx: 406.563.5476
http://www.medamembers.org

April 6, 2009
Montana Legislature
Senate Taxation Committee

Re: HB 631

Dear Senate Taxation Committee Members:

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) would like to express their support for HB 631. MEDA feels that the two main functions incorporated this bill, matching the State Historic Tax Credits with that allowed by the Federal Government and allowing for the transferability of the state historic tax credits, are extremely important to spur the redevelopment and rehabilitation of historic structures throughout Montana.

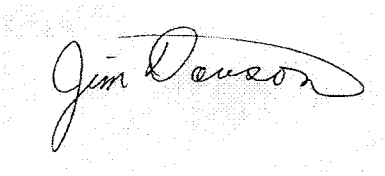
MEDA believes it makes good sense to encourage the redevelopment and rehabilitation of existing historic buildings. In many cases these historic structures are located in our community's central business districts. Putting these buildings back into usable form while maintaining their historic significance would bring new life back to our downtowns, eliminate the need to extend public utilities to new outlying areas, reduce the blight that vacant buildings pose to areas, generate new property tax revenues for our cities and towns and provide new space for businesses to grow and flourish.

The cost associated with historic renovation can be much greater than new construction. Therefore, it is extremely important to provide developers with tools that help equalize the playing field. Modifying the State of Montana's Historic Tax Credits so that they track the Federal Historic Tax Credits would be a significant improvement over the current situation. Also, allowing for the State Historic Tax Credits to be transferable to a third party would greatly increase the marketability of these credits. Both of these elements would provide the developers with important capital to assist them in bringing new life in our existing buildings and preserving Montana's heritage.

Once again MEDA would ask that you pass HB 631.

Thank you in advance for your support for this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Jim Davison
MEDA President

JOIN US AT http://www.medamembers.org
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: JIM DAVISON, PRESIDENT, ANACONDA * BRETT DONEY, VICE PRESIDENT, GREAT FALLS *
* LARRY MIRES, TREASURER, GLASGOW* RICK EDWARDS, PAST PRESIDENT, BUTTE * GLORIA O'ROURKE, SECRETARY *
* BRIAN GION, GREAT FALLS * JIM ATCHISON, COLSTRIP * JIM SMITHAM, BUTTE * RODNEY MILLER, FT. PECK
* LESLIE MESSER, SIDNEY * ANNE BOOTHE, MALTA *
* RICHARD SANGREY, ROCKY BOY'S RESERVATION * TERRY MYHRE, HELENA * TRACY MCINTYRE, EUREKA *
* ANDY POOLE, HELENA * BOB HIATALA, BOZEMAN * LYLE PHILLIPS, KALISPELL *
* KATHIE BAILEY, LEWISTOWN* PAUL TUSS, HAVRE *STEVE ARVESHOUG, BILLINGS * KEN RICHARDSON, MISSOULA *