



# BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF NORTHERN MONTANA

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February 16, 2011

Chairman McNutt and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to urge your strong support of HB 439 and the proposed amendment to this bill, which, together, will allow the State of Montana to bond for important construction projects that will add to our state's ability to properly serve its citizens and grow our economy.

Particularly at a time when Montana is working to emerge from our recent recession in a stronger position to positively impact the economy of our state, it makes sense to use this funding mechanism to construct buildings that are truly needed, put our residents to work at good-paying jobs and, in the case of the University System, prepare our young people for the jobs that will drive our nation's economy for decades to come. Now is a particularly critical time to support this bonding measure, given the favorable environment that exists for interest rates.

The amendment before you that includes additional bonding for an automobile/diesel technology building on the campus of MSU-Northern is critical. This funding will allow for the construction of a much-needed facility to continue the good work at MSUN in the technology arena that has made this university a national leader in many areas, including alternative energy, diesel and biofuels. Unfortunately, MSUN's existing campus facilities to house these programs has not kept up with student enrollment or demand for qualified graduates from these disciplines by the private sector.

This new facility will add significantly to the economy of Montana and invest wisely in educating our residents for the jobs that will drive our economy in the future.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Tuss  
Executive Director

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Chamber letter

Debbie Vandenberg [chamber@havremt.net]

Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 10:05 AM

To: Frank Trocki

Importance: High



Proudly serving Havre business  
Since 1909

February 16, 2011  
Chancellor Frank Trocki  
Montana State University- Northern  
PO Box 7751  
Havre, MT 59501

Dear Dr. Trocki:

We, the Board of Directors of the Havre Area Chamber of Commerce wish to commend MSU-Northern for all they do for Havre and the Hi-Line area. MSU-Northern was founded in 1929 and has served Havre as an academic hub for the Hi-Line and north central Montana for more than 80 years. The town's dedication to MSU-Northern and the campus' commitment to the Hi-Line has always been the foundation to every program offered.

This letter supports the requests for funding being sought by MSU-Northern for upgrades to the Auto Technology Building. The funding would make it possibility for Northern to transfer a current inefficient building into a state of the art and energy efficient facility. In an economy that is looking to be efficient – rehabilitation of an existing structure is usually more cost effective than starting from new.

Not only does Northern provide great education opportunities for our area, Northern is also a huge component to the ongoing economics of Havre and the region. Noted below are some of the real assets Northern contributes in jobs and the local economy :

- **Jobs:** The Havre campus contributes 800 jobs in a region of Montana where job availability is crucial.
- **Income:** These jobs mean an additional \$82 million in personal income.
- **Tax Revenue:** MSU-Northern produces a two to one return on investment of state dollars. The \$9 million investment resulted in \$18 million in state tax revenues in 2009.
- **Compensation:** Annual wages are \$94 higher across the state because of the presence of MSU-Northern.
- **Investment Spending:** An increase of \$14.7 million in investment spending in the Montana economy occurs every year due to the operation of the Northern campus.

*Noted from the Montana State University Economic Impact Report –December 2010.*

The Northern Auto Technology Center would enhance the campus and provide opportunity for further growth in Northern's unique programs. The facility will allow for more students to be educated in emerging technologies, which will provide for additional jobs and economic growth for Havre and the Hi-Line.

Sincerely,

Debbie Vandenberg  
Executive Director  
Havre Area Chamber of Commerce

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*Legislative weekly video conference - Wednesday @ 12 noon @ Robins School*

