

EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 1/13/2011  
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P.O. Box 1451



Helena, MT 59624

The Honorable Roy Hollandsworth  
Chairman of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education  
Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Dear Chairman Hollandsworth:

Please accept this letter of unconditional support regarding the value of the Montana Historical Society (MHS) to the people of Montana. The Museums Association of Montana (MAM) and the Montana Historical Society have worked closely together for more than forty years as partners and leaders in the preservation of Montana's rich cultural heritage. Additionally, the Montana Historical Society has been a key partner with MAM in the professional development of museum practitioners throughout the State. Without the Historical Society, the Museums Association of Montana would be hard-pressed to provide the kind of quality that Montanans have come to expect from our organization.

The Montana Historical Society serves as the central repository for the collection and exhibition of Montana's unique historical objects. The Museum in Helena is a tangible touchstone for all to use in the validation of Montana's historical and cultural legacy. Without the continued contributions of the Montana Historical Society, the historical record of Montana and the United States would be both inadequate and incomplete. Nowhere else in Montana is our whole story shared, celebrated, or solemnly commemorated.

The Montana Historical Society also serves as a visionary leader in the fields of historical research, education, publication, and preservation. Through these efforts historians, writers, museum curators, civic leaders, and dozens of others are able to assist in the preservation and dissemination of local and regional history throughout the State.

In conclusion, the continued excellence of the Montana Historical Society in the various programs and activities outlined above improves the overall quality of life in Montana. The sometimes invisible, yet always present result of these activities is a more enlightened and engaged citizenship. I need not remind you that an improved citizenry is a cornerstone in the foundation of this great Nation.

Sincerely,

*William D. Peterson, PhD*

William D. Peterson, PhD  
President  
Museums Association of Montana