

WINNETT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1



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P.O. Box 167 Broadway Avenue

Winnett, Montana 59087-0167

EXHIBIT

DATE

HB

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4/12/11

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Chairman McNutt, Committee Members:

My name is Clay Dunlap. I am the superintendent of schools in Winnett, which is located 52 miles east of Lewistown and 100 miles northeast of Billings. Petroleum County is the smallest county in the state with a population of 440, which is a decrease from the 2000 census of 493. Petroleum County is the sixth least populated county in the entire nation. In addition, a recent Harvard University study on poverty in America indicated that Petroleum County was one of the three poorest counties in the nation.

The Winnett School is the focal point of the county. The school was designated as a Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education in 2006. Moreover, the school has made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) every year since the inception of No Child Left Behind.

The school has received substantial funds from the Quality Schools Grant program, which has enabled the school district to update some badly needed "big ticket" items. Thanks to this program, the school was able to install energy efficient lighting throughout the school, which not only improved the lighting but also substantially reduced the school's utility bill. In addition, the grant has enabled the district to replace a 1950's stove, mixer, and dishwasher system in the hot lunch program.

Within the last year, the school has received a large grant that will enable the district to construct a new building on campus, which will house the award winning welding/metals and small engine department of the school's technology education program. The life skills taught in this program are of vital importance to the school's students, and the antiquated, cramped structure that the school presently utilizes does not provide enough space to expand the program and allow students to

build the projects that they desire to build for use on local family farms and ranches. Thanks to this program, the school will now have this capability to provide this basic educational need.

The Department of Commerce has been extremely helpful in the implementation of these projects. Ms. Kali Wicks has been the school's contact person throughout the program; she has been especially helpful and responsive to the school's needs and requests. This program has proved to be very valuable to this small, remote school. The Winnett School District would encourage consideration for any request that would enable the Department of Commerce to continue to provide the necessary help and assistance that has been previously delivered.

ADDENDUM:

To date, the Winnett School District has received the following funding from the Department of Commerce Quality Schools program:

2009:	\$18,797.47	Purchase kitchen equipment
2009:	\$13,640.00	Planning grant to prepare for replacing inefficient lighting throughout the school
2009:	\$16,863.00	Purchase and install energy efficient lighting
2011:	\$314,107.00	Anticipated funds to construct a new welding/metal works building for the school's technology education department