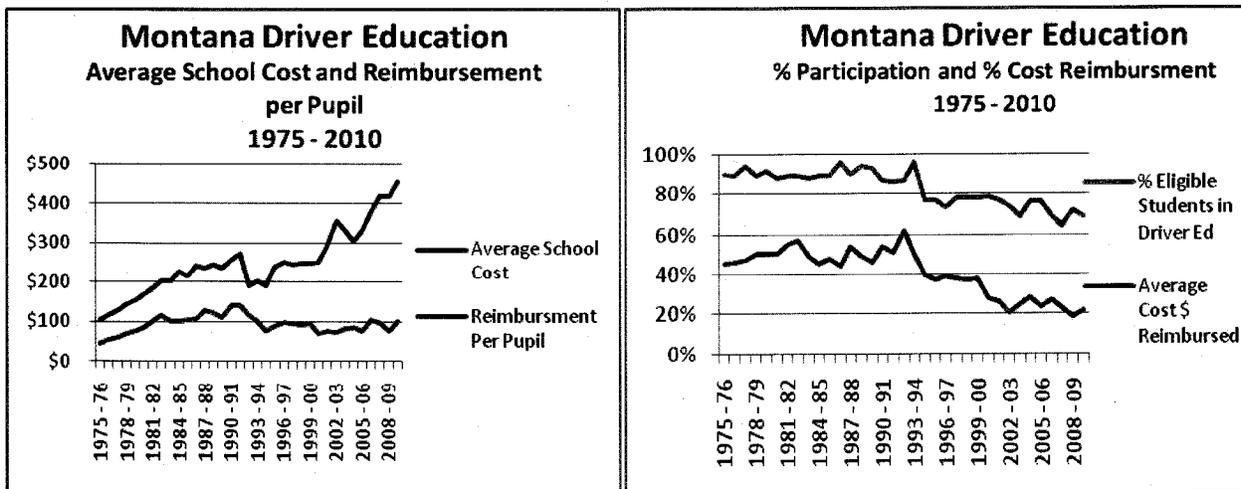


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139 high school districts **offered** a state-approved traffic education program.
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WHEN OFFERED

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PROGRAM FEES

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PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

59 districts **granted credit** for successful completion of traffic education.
122 districts **screened students** for visual acuity.
80 districts employed a traffic and safety education **coordinator and/or supervisor**.
85 districts offered **pedestrian** safety instruction in the elementary and middle schools.
95 districts offered **school bus rider** safety instruction in the elementary and middle schools.
77 districts offered **bicycle** safety instruction in the elementary and middle schools.
54 districts offered traffic education for **adult** beginners.
132 districts provided traffic education for **students with disabilities**.
132 districts taught an instructional unit on sharing the road with **motorcycles**.
136 districts emphasized and required the use of **seatbelts**.
136 districts used Montana's current Traffic Education **Curriculum Guide** for its high school program.
31 districts conducted **follow-up research** on student performance (violations/accidents).
134 districts taught an instructional unit on the effects of **alcohol/drug** use in driving.
111 districts involved **parents** in the Traffic Education program.
113 districts participated in the **Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP)**.
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NUMBER OF TEACHERS AND RATES OF PAY

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0 persons were **killed**.
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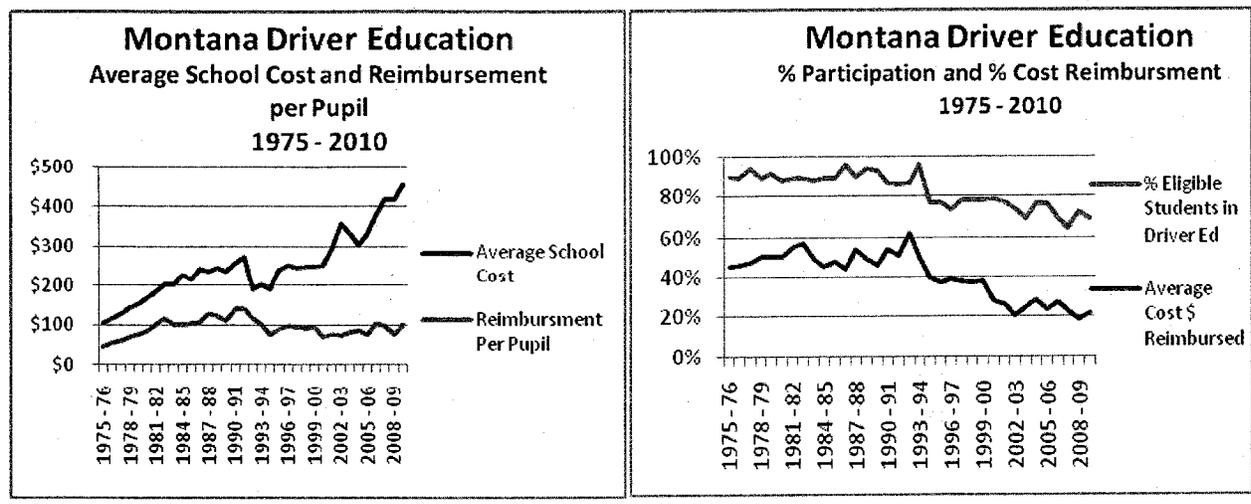
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SWEETGRASS DEVELOPMENT

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL MONTANA – CASCADE, GLACIER, PONDERA, TETON AND TOOLE COUNTIES

February 2, 2011

TO:

- **Walter McNutt, Chair, and the House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning**
- **Don Roberts, Chair, House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services**

RE: **Opposition to HB 316;**
Redistribute Certain Revenue and Income to State General Fund

Bill Beck, Chair, House J A Subcommittee on General Government

Sweetgrass Development is comprised of a five county region in North Central Montana including Glacier, Cascade, Pondera, Teton and Toole Counties. Sweetgrass Development is an Economic Development District with designation through the U.S. Economic Development Administration as well as and more importantly, a Certified Regional Development Corporation (CRDC), through the state of Montana. The mission and objectives of the organization is to assist the governments and citizens in each county and the Blackfeet Nation, achieve their economic goals, while preserving their distinct cultures and way of life.

Sweetgrass Development adamantly opposes HB 316, the redistribution of certain revenue and income to the state general fund. Transferring funds from the Big Sky Economic Development Fund, the Treasure State Endowment Fund and revising the allocation of Coal Severance Taxes will not only hinder current projects, but deter future development throughout the state. These funds are a key element in planning and economic diversification for Montana. Diverting these dollars would impede the economic development progress within the Sweetgrass area, affecting not only those counties in the area, but the economy of the state as a whole. Sweetgrass Development partners with entities throughout the region on projects possible through funding available to the CRDC. Since its inception, Sweetgrass Development has been able to utilize the funds received as a CRDC, to leverage approximately a million dollars in public and private dollars.

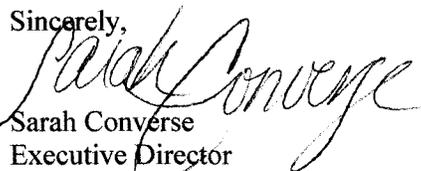
It should be noted that all of these programs were extensively reviewed by the 2009 Legislature, which determined that each was of critical importance to the economic growth in our state. The programs were funded by the 2009 Session and were extended through 2019. As we focus on job creation and business retention, reviewing these programs again, given the difficult economic times facing our state and specifically our rural communities, seems hypocritical. In addition to reducing funds available for planning and infrastructure projects, the proposed budget cuts in HB 316 would critically impact key economic development programs utilized by Sweetgrass Development including:

- **Certified Regional Development Corporations**
- **Small Business Development Centers**
- **Montana Cooperative Development Center**
- **Montana Manufacturing Extension Center**

Without these funds, Sunburst would not have a café, Glacier County would not have the blueprint for a new Emergency Services Building and Sweetgrass Development would not have a revolving loan fund, assisting businesses throughout the region, allowing them to keep their doors open, remaining viable members of the community.

We urge you to please oppose HB 316. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Sarah Converse
Executive Director
Sweetgrass Development