

Approps

Cargo, Beth

From: Clerk [cityclerk@hardinmt.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 1:37 PM
Subject: RE: House Bill 11

Importance: High

EXHIBIT 6
DATE Feb 7, 2011
HB 11

Dear Committee Member:

We are writing this letter to express the City of Hardin's opposition to House Bill 11, which would allow the transfer of \$18,524,490 from the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) to the general fund. The City of Hardin has received grants through the TSEP program for previous projects, most notably, a recent wastewater improvements project. Without the assistance of the TSEP program, this project would have forced the City of Hardin to significantly raise user rates to fund the project, which many community members would not have been able to afford. However, with the assistance of the TSEP program, user rates have been maintained at reasonable levels and the project helped to support local businesses and create good paying jobs.

The City of Hardin has invested a large amount of time, money, and resources in developing a detailed Preliminary Engineering Report in order to apply for TSEP program assistance. Due to these efforts and the significant health and safety issues identified within the current water system, the TSEP program has ranked the City of Hardin #1 to receive funding. Without this assistance, the necessary improvements to provide safe and clean drinking water to the City will not be affordable to our community and the resources that have already been invested will likely be lost.

The TSEP program has worked well for many years in assisting local governments in providing necessary infrastructure improvements within their communities without raising usage rates to unbearable levels. Without these funds, many smaller, low-income communities including the City of Hardin, will no longer be able to fund the infrastructure projects necessary to ensure public health and safety. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Hammond
Mayor

Larry Vandersloot
Public Works Director

City of Hardin
406 N. Cheyenne Ave.
Hardin, MT 59034
(406) 665-9292
Fax: (406) 665-2719
www.hardinmt.com