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MEDA represents over 230 members who are actively involved in local economic activity, community development, job retention and job creation for Montana.

March 16, 2011

**TO: Chair Gary MacLaren and Members of the House Local Government Committee
Rm. 172; 3:00pm 3/17/11**

RE: SB117 Coordination between counties, districts and federal government

Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) stands in opposition to SB117. In essence, upon passage of this bill if 3% of the electorate in a county saw an issue that they did not like that was affected by a federal agency, they could "require certain local governments and special purpose districts to demand coordination from the federal government."

This bill would cause counties to be hit with the burden of verifying the petition, providing public notice of hearings, create a citizens group, then demand "Coordination" with the federal group if that was warranted. These actions would halt or greatly slow project progress and place unfair financial burdens on local government that have been initiated from a minority 3% voice.

As economic development agents, we strive to assist counties to complete growth policies, forest plans, sub-development policies, capital improvement plans, etc. The passage of SB117 would greatly hinder progress across the board.

Finally, MEDA wishes to clarify that Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA Coordinator, is in opposition to SB117. We received notice that Gloria Roark recently spoke in support of SB117 and was thought to represent MEDA. Again, MEDA is in opposition to SB117 and encourages your opposition as well.

Sincerely,

Jim Davison, President

Gloria O'Rourke, Coordinator

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