

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

May 12, 2011

Bill Text w/Gov Line-Item Veto

The Honorable Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Secretary McCulloch:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby deliver to you House Bill No. 351 (HB 351), "**AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THROUGH THE TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING GRANTS FROM THE TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PLACING CONDITIONS UPON GRANTS AND FUNDS; APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR EMERGENCY GRANTS; APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PRELIMINARY INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING GRANTS; APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITIES FOR REGIONAL WATER PROJECTS; REQUIRING THE TRANSFER OF MONEY FROM THE TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT AND THE TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO THE STATE GENERAL FUND; RETAINING THE TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM FUND WITHIN THE COAL SEVERANCE TAX TRUST FUND FOR AN ADDITIONAL 4 YEARS; EXTENDING TRANSFERS TO THE TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT FUND AND THE TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM FUND TO 2020; REVISING GRANT CONDITIONS AND RANKING PROCEDURES; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 17-5-703, 90-6-703, AND 90-6-710, MCA; AMENDING SECTION 6, CHAPTER 495, LAWS OF 1999, AND SECTION 1, CHAPTER 70, LAWS OF 2001; REPEALING SECTION 2, CHAPTER 70, LAWS OF 2001; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE,**" which I have signed into law with items "struck-out," or vetoed.

I have used three tests to determine which of those projects receiving appropriations under the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) to fund or to veto. First, I vetoed projects located in legislative districts that did not receive the support of local legislators. This was the first analysis I used when considering whether limited state

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resources would be used to support the project. The projects I vetoed under this criterion include projects to:

- The Town of Sheridan (wastewater)
- Madison County (bridge)
- Carbon County (bridge)
- Fergus County (bridge)
- Lincoln County (bridge)

Second, I vetoed one project, Park County (bridge), because the project already has been completed using other fund sources.

Third and finally, I vetoed two projects that ranked low as measured by "financial need" or "public health and safety." The City of Roundup has access to other revenue sources not available to most Montana communities, such as coal board funding, so I vetoed City of Roundup (water) from HB 351. I vetoed Sweet Grass County (bridge), because it received a low score as a bridge project on the public health and safety criterion, because the County identified an alternative route within close proximity.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

cc: Legislative Services Division