EXHIBIT 9
DATE 3/6/13
HB 2

Adams, Lisa

From: Stevensville Main Street Association <stevimainst@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 3:31 PM
To: Adams, Lisa
Subject: House Appropriations Committee HB 2 Section A

March 5, 2013

Secretary, Lisa Adams – House Appropriations Committee Secretary

RE: House Appropriations Committee Hearing on Section A of HB 2

The Stevensville Main Street Association would like to add our voice of support for the State Main Street Program and HB2. The State Main Street Program legitimizes our Stevensville Main Street Program. The educational support, opportunities to attend or host national professionals in our own state, the baseline to meet and tap into like communities and their wealth of knowledge is a great benefit to the small communities that make up the great state of Montana.

Our Stevensville Main Street program is in its thirteenth year of operation. I have been the paid Director for our program for this entire time. Our program is a true grass roots Main Street Program. We follow the 4 point approach and we are a State Certified Program and an Accredited National Program. We have a Board of 12 directors and 4 committees, Promotion, Design, Economic Development and Organization with a Parking sub-committee that is working with the Town of Stevensville. We have had many benefits from the State Main Street Program. Educational opportunities, services provided to our organization to strengthen and empower the program and a conduit to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and grant opportunities.

Our program has had some recent successes as follows: The Design Committee received a CTEP grant for $500,000 for the Streetscape Project Phase I for pedestrian safety which, fixed sidewalks that border our Main Street businesses, shortened pedestrian crossings with the addition of bulb outs and marked pedestrian crossings, benches and new garbage receptacles were included as well as bike racks. The matching funds of $67,000 were facilitated by the Main Street program and garnered from community members and organizations. We are just finishing up on the project. Our Town government is working with us on a contract for services to take on projects and search for grants etc. as well as preserve our commercial district and protect their tax base. We have brought educational seminars to the businesses, customer service, marketing, media, etc. that normally they would have to travel to Missoula or Hamilton for. Our Promotion Committee provides the festivals and activities that bring visitors to Stevensville and allow our businesses to show their services and products. The Shop Local campaign educates the community on the value of investing your dollars locally vs. shopping in big box stores. The Economic Development Committee provides assistance to our business community and are continually aware of spaces available for lease, rent or sale and continue recruitment efforts to fill available space to keep the downtown viable. Parking surveys and analysis of need, availability and requirements to assist the Town Government in future planning is addressed through the Parking Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Economic Development group. Our Organization Committee is in charge of our finances, staff and making sure the fundraisers are successful. All of our efforts are to support the business community of Stevensville and see that the amenities needed by the community are available to meet their needs. By keeping businesses viable and our historic buildings full of businesses assures the historic preservation of our buildings and attractions.

The State Main Street program is there to assist us with educational opportunities, grants, promotion efforts, connections and assistance to maintain our program. Based on our 13 years of a successful Main Street Program we hope that you will support the Montana State Main Street Program and allocate funds to keep it running successfully providing services to the Communities of Montana.

Sincerely,

Joan Prather, Director
Stevensville Main Street Association
406-777-3773
Website: mainstreetstevensville.com