



EXHIBIT _____
DATE 2/1/2013
SB 30

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<http://www.medamembers.org>

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

January 31, 2013

**TO: Chairman Tom Berry and members of the House Business and Labor Committee
Room 172; 9:00am**

RE: Revision of Big Sky Trust Fund wage rate laws

BILL NO: SB30

Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) stands in support of SB30 which would revise the Big Sky Trust Fund (BSTF) wage rate laws.

The Big Sky Trust Fund is a key economic development tool for Montana and has aided in the development of many good paying jobs for Montana residents. Making the wage rates adjustments outlined in SB30 would bring consistency with other programs that provide funding for workforce training, including the Primary Sector Workforce Training Program.

In addition, this adjustment would give counties with higher average wages the ability to apply for the program for good projects that create good jobs. The program is designed to support the creation of new jobs with higher wage potential.

It should be noted that the revision of the Big Sky Trust Fund wage rates would only make an application eligible; the application would still be analyzed and approved on its merits by the Montana Department of Commerce.

Thank you for your support of SB30.

For MEDA,

Tracy McIntyre, President

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