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EXHIBIT 2
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My name is Mark Semmens, and I am a Managing Director of Investment Banking for D.A. Davidson & Co. in Great Falls. Let me be clear from the start: I am not a lobbyist and I have not appeared before the Montana Legislature to testify on anything for six years. Yet I am submitting testimony in favor of opting into the Medicaid expansion for one very simple reason: I am deeply committed to seeing economic expansion in Montana, and I am confident that this is the greatest opportunity for state economic growth and job creation that will be seen by this Legislature. It may be the greatest opportunity we will see for years to come.

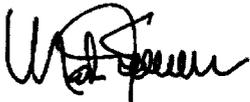
If you have not yet reviewed the Economic Ramifications report prepared by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, I encourage you to do so. It is one of the most thorough, well-supported and thoughtful economic analyses I have read. If anything, I suspect the report under-states the net benefits to be received by Montana by opting into Medicaid expansion. Yet the essential findings of the analysis are these:

- Over the first eight years we bring approximately \$6 billion of new funds into the state—on average, roughly \$750 million per year.
- We very quickly create and sustain 12,000 to 14,000 new high paying jobs. To place that in context, that's 30% more than the total mining and logging jobs in the state.
- We provide health care insurance, and all the health and societal benefits that come with it, to approximately 60,000 to 70,000 Montanans.

And what does Montana need to kick-in to receive these substantial economic benefits for our people? For the first three years, federal funding would cover 100% of the costs, other than relatively small administrative costs. Over the course of the first eight years, we need to contribute roughly \$70 million per year, including administrative costs. And here's the really remarkable thing: between reduced uncompensated care costs and increased state and local tax revenues from the expanded economic activity, the net present value cost to the State of Montana is roughly... \$0. Now think about that for a minute. Consider the prospect of a Fortune 500 Company coming to us with this proposal: "We will commit to spend \$6 billion in your state over the next eight years and create more than 12,000 jobs; in return, we will ask you to kick in less than 10% of that amount down the road, but we can show you that state cost savings and additional tax receipts will fully offset your matching requirement." We would, of course, be tripping over ourselves to sign up. And we would be right to do so. And the irony is that the federal government that is offering us this deal has a higher standing in the private capital markets, attracting lower interest rates and more confidence in the entity making good on its obligations, than any of those Fortune 500 companies.

I suspect that most lawmakers in this room promised your constituents that your number one priority would be to increase jobs and strengthen our economy, and I know that you are sincere in that pledge. So please, thoughtfully and objectively consider the rare opportunity before us to substantially increase good paying jobs, to meaningfully expand economic activity in the state, and to positively impact our citizens and the state we all love. As the head of the state Chamber of Commerce in a notoriously red state recently put it, "this is not a political issue; it's an economic issue." I hope and pray that you will come to the same conclusion.

Submitted this 25th day of March, 2013 by:



Mark J. Semmens
Great Falls, Montana