

Miltenberger, Molly

From: Kevin Myhre <kmyhre@ci.lewistown.mt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 11:54 AM
To: Miltenberger, Molly
Cc: Wisemiller, Tash; 'Duane Ferdinand'
Subject: Montana Main Street Program

Joint Appropriations subcommittee on General Government

Chairman and Committee Members,

Please accept this correspondence as a letter of support for the Montana Main Street Program. Since its creation in 2005 the program has worked with many of Montana's communities to provide support for Montana's downtowns. The City of Lewistown is proud to have a historic downtown that provides a market place for many businesses as well as a gathering place for the citizens of central Montana. Our downtown is truly the heart of our community.

In recent years, Lewistown's downtown has been struggling to retain its businesses. With the increased usage of the internet, changing buying habits, and the ease of travel to larger Cities with many big box stores, Lewistown has lost a significant amount of occupancy in its downtown. Over the recession the community has lost one of its two grocery stores, the communities largest clothing retailer, as well as multiple restaurants, our jewelry store, our office supply store, an outdoor goods store, as well as several other small businesses. Just this week, the local JC Penney outlet announced that they are losing their JC Penney franchise. The loss of retailers and service providers is crippling our community and driving even more citizens to other markets.

With the very difficult issues facing our communities, it is imperative that we utilize all resources to save our downtowns. The City of Lewistown supports the Montana Main Street Program and requests that the Montana Legislature continue to support the program as well.

Thank You for your continued commitment to Montana's communities.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Myhre
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