



Beaverhead County Commissioners

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EXHIBIT

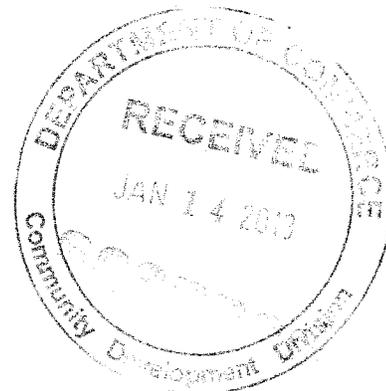
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DATE Jan 15, 2013

HB 11

January 10, 2013

Becky Anseth
TSEP Program Manager
Community Development Division
Montana Department of Commerce
301 S. Park Ave.
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523



Dear Ms. Anseth;

It is with great reluctance that I am writing this letter. If you may recall from your December 7th review meeting with our County Engineer Jim Carpita concerning Beaverhead County's bridge replacement program, Beaverhead County like numerous other Montana Counties is under severe budget restraints. It was those restraints that caused us to choose the Schoolhouse Road Bridge for replacement out of sequence of our priority list of projects.

After further consideration and examination of our priorities as well as evaluating anticipated future PILT & Title II / III funds, the Beaverhead County Commissioners have determined that it would be in the best interest of the taxpayers of the County to place the monies for the total replacement of the Schoolhouse Road Bridge into a Capital Improvement Fund, along with additional bridge replacement levied funds over the next several years, to meet the priorities set out in our Capital Improvement Plan. As you may further recall, Jim outlined that the need to replace all 5 bridges on the Big Sheep Creek drainage simultaneously is driven by the site restraints for detouring traffic, or in actuality the lack of any room for onsite detours. The total cost of those bridges could be well in excess of \$1,000,000. Consequently, we will need to build up our matching funds for an anticipated TSEP application in a future cycle.

Therefore, we are formally asking that our application for the 2013 TSEP cycle be withdrawn. It is our intent to perform minor repairs to the Schoolhouse Road Bridge with County crews to insure the safety of the public but not construct a new bridge until the ADT is such that a new structure is required. Beaverhead County is very appreciative of the support the TSEP program staff has given us over the years and

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apologize for this action. However, we felt that by withdrawing at this stage in the appropriations process that the funds may be made available to another county for its bridge replacement needs.

If you should have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jim.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Thomas Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning.

C. Thomas Rice
Chairman
Beaverhead County Commissioners

CTR:pto