



118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A Anaconda, MT 59711  
 ph: 406.563.5259 fx: 406.563.5476  
<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.*

February 13, 2013

**TO: Chairman Gerald (Jerry) Bennett and members of the House Natural Resources Committee**

**RE: HB388 AN ACT LIMITING LOANS FROM MONEY REPAYED TO THE DISTRESSED WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT TO INDIVIDUALS OR SMALL BUSINESSES RELATED TO WOOD PROCESSING**

Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) stands in support of HB388 which would limit loans from money repaid to the distressed wood products industry revolving loan account. As the bill reads, funds would be reserved for businesses involved in wood processing.

While MEDA is in support of this bill and greatly values revolving loan funds as an economic development tool, MEDA recommends limiting the number of years these funds are reserved for the woods product industry. While currently the wood products industry needs support, it may be that in two to four years another primary sector industry would need bolstering. MEDA recommends limiting the number of years funds are reserved for the wood processing industry, thus allowing for assistance as needed in the near future.

Thank you for your support of HB388 with the recommendation that the years be limited as it is in the best interest of Montana.

For MEDA,

Tracy McIntyre, President

JOIN US AT <http://www.medamembers.org>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: TRACY MCINTYRE, PRESIDENT, EUREKA \* JASON RITTAL, VICE PRESIDENT, TERRY \*  
 \* RICK EDWARDS, TREASURER, BUTTE \* LARRY MIRES, PAST PRESIDENT, GLASGOW \* GLORIA O'ROURKE, SECRETARY \*  
 \* BRIAN GION, GREAT FALLS \* JIM ATCHISON, COLSTRIP \* JIM SMITHAM, BUTTE \* JAMES GRUNKE, MISSOULA \* BRETT DONEY, GREAT FALLS \*  
 \* LESLIE MESSER, SIDNEY \* ANNE BOOTHE, MALTA \* ANDY POOLE, HELENA \* MARTIN DEWITT, WOLF POINT \*  
 \* STUART LEIDNER, BOZEMAN \* STEVE ARVESHOU, BILLINGS \* KEN RICHARDSON, MISSOULA \*  
 \* KELLIE DANIELSON, KALISPELL \* KATHIE BAILEY, LEWISTOWN \* PAUL TUSS, HAVRE \*