

EXHIBIT 9

DATE 1/27/2015

HB 258

## HB 258 Authorize Benefits Corporations

Submitted Testimony in favor of HB 258



Business is the biggest force for economic prosperity in the state, and it is important for people to have confidence that the business community operates in a fair, honest and responsible way. The B Corp status is a way that government can encourage businesses - THAT WANT TO - to become more transparent and accountable.

Talented people are increasingly looking for an opportunity to balance their choice of where to live with the job opportunities available in the region. By enacting legislation to create a B corporation as a legal entity in Montana, the legislature is taking an active step to attracting the kind of progressive company to the state, which will encourage highly skilled people to relocate here. It increases job growth, increases the talent pool, and increases the net inflow of wealth into the state.

Companies that focus on "doing good" while making a profit make the state a better place to live and work. Broadening the focus beyond shareholder return to include community return make these companies better neighbors, which in turn make them more sustainable. MasterLube is the perfect example of a company that has used a higher purpose to create better than industry financial returns while remaining a solid contributor to the community in a wealth of different ways for over three decades.

When I owned OneEighty Communications, and arrived at the conclusion that I needed to sell the company, I laid out my criteria for an acquiring company. It had to benefit my customers, employees, shareholders and the community. I spoke with close to 30 companies before I found a good fit. Eight years later most of my staff are still working for the acquiring company, and they remain active in local economic development, charitable causes, etc. I know that I could have made more money if I had sold to a company that wanted to fire most of the employees and handle customer care from an office outside of Montana. Why did I choose the path I chose? I care about the people who worked for me, this place where I live, and the quality of service provided to my former customers.

The B Corp entity encourages these kinds of results, with the very tangible outcome of reinforcing Montana as "The Last Best Place."

Regards,

CHRIS DIMOCK, Company Leader

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