

EXHIBIT 8  
DATE 4/1/2015  
SB 354

## Newell B. Anderson

March 25, 2015

**TO: The Honorable Legislative Representatives of the People of Montana**

My name is Newell Anderson and this statement represents my experience based perspective and judgement as a past Division Administrator in the Montana Department of Commerce. I served in that position in Governor Stan Stevens Administration as a part of the team that helped build and implement Montana's Treasure State Endowment Program. My perspective is intended to represent a factual history based on extensively researched local and national infrastructure needs and the funding methods and options for designing and implementing an integrity based program that best serves the long term needs of the citizens of Montana's communities.

The Montana Treasure State Endowment Program came from many years of research led by our staff team. We extensively reviewed Montana's community infrastructure needs; the needs of project types, of project costs, of existing project funding types and available funding sources; and the need for definition of project design, engineering and timing. We studied years of other states' and Federal infrastructure assistance program histories - all adding up to extraordinary amounts of information requiring answers defining the question, "what and how do we (Montana) proceed now?"

Before the Treasure State Endowment Program – a new state program with a significant amount of public funds – could become real and operational, it had to become a widely credible and agreeable body of understandable facts with a defined "why, what and how". Central to this acceptance was the believable integrity of this "why, what, and how" by a clear public majority. A "chink in its integrity armor" would have been fatal to its enactment. A scandal in its operation would have killed its longevity. Questions have been asked and answered. TSEP exists and credibly produces results today – these many years later.

I have read SB 354 – the Build Montana Program - and have many unanswered questions. Questions such as why enact this Build Montana Program, apparently laid over the top of the existing Treasure State Endowment Program? Why is there the addition of another applicant project review group– the joint interim subcommittee and staff - apparently laid over the top of the existing Treasure State Endowment Program? Project review is a very extensive and complex technical function. My experience in the original construction of the TSEP infrastructure assistance had the clear public demand of program integrity in a very open and defensible body of answers. My review of SB 354 satisfies neither the "why" integrity question nor does it (the bill) exist with a public discussion providing an open and understandable body of program answers. I believe that such changes as proposed in SB 354 would fail because of unanswered questions and no existing public agreement. Failure is not an acceptable future.

Thank you for this opportunity to present a brief history and my observations on SB 354.

  
Newell B. Anderson