

January 28, 2015

House Taxation Committee Members,

This month marks five years since our sign manufacturing business opened our doors in downtown Helena. At that time, we made an investment in about \$225,000 worth of equipment to allow us to be competitive and serve the market more broadly.

The business equipment tax changes passed in the 2013 legislative session impacted us directly. Our equipment tax bill dropped by over half, and those are funds we have been able to put back into our long-term plan of growth and additional employees. In the last few months, we have added a part-time employee, and increased the hours of another to 2/3 time. An additional increase in the threshold amount would exempt us fully from the business equipment tax and again impact us in a positive manner.

We support the tax base in our community with payroll taxes and income taxes, as well as sponsorship and support of community events. It is our intention to continue to be active in our growth strategy. Your consideration of an increase in the business equipment tax threshold would be greatly appreciated.

We are proud to be part of the Helena and Montana business communities. Thank you for the opportunity to support this legislation. We urge a do pass of HB 213.

Sincerely,

Trevor & Donya Parrish
Owners, Signs Now Helena, Inc.
Helena, MT