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Jobs Listening Session

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Protecting public infrastructure and services is critical to the success of small businesses, and Main Street businesses are the backbone of Montana.

Education

A solid education is instrumental in producing a quality workforce. Finding dependable, competent employees was one of the most difficult areas when I opened my shop. From the beginning, it was apparent that a higher level of education meant a higher level of employee quality.

(Example: College-bound employees vs. high school grads with drug issues, stealing.)

We need the Legislature to protect our schools – from elementary to higher education. We must receive the funding needed to educate our children and future employees.

As a parent and former public school teacher, I have a vested interest in this topic. I have seen, first hand, a correlation between level of education and employee quality.

My children have wonderful, thoughtful teachers. These educators must be paid adequately so that they can keep up this pace.

(Example: Mrs. Lindsay Hicks, first grade teacher, individualized math, reading, spelling for each child. 22 in the small "classroom.")

Business owners care about our kids' futures. These are our future employees and I want to live and operate my business in a community where we can be guaranteed a great education.

Public Service, Money

Firefighters and police are vital public services that give business owners a sense of security.

(Example: Power Block fire, drunkards)

While the Walking Mall is maintained with public money, it helps my private business succeed. Big Dipper draws families downtown and the Walking Mall gives them a place to relax, a place for kids to play, and a spot for everyone to enjoy their ice cream outdoors. This kind of public-private partnership benefits private business and the public community at large.