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WTR provides engineering and construction in Mechanical, Electrical, and Environmental industries. WTR has been in business since 1993 has 3 offices located in Helena, Missoula and Great Falls, Montana. Mr. Warner is a native Montanan who grew up in Forsyth, Montana.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislature

The ongoing support of these construction and energy Bills will reduce overall energy costs in schools and maintain and provide new jobs.

In 2009 WTR competed over 70 energy audits in many school districts throughout Montana, myself and my engineers saw first hand the condition some of the schools are in. The school buildings are in such poor shape for energy reduction, an engineer can walk into a school and within 30 minutes save the school \$10,000 a year by pointing out inefficiencies of the heating and ventilation system.

With more time and a little engineering, the schools can save \$25,000 to \$50,000 A YEAR from that point forward.

In 2 years a school would save \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year, there are several hundred school buildings that are in this category.

Through the design and construction of the projects we have employed 11 engineers related to this work.

From the Quick Start Grants and Quality Schools Grant Program from the Department of Commerce.

- In 2009 and 2010 -- 278 Jobs were created or retained with this Program that was created by 2009 Legislative Session and an estimated yearly energy savings nearly 1.2 Million Dollars.
- That is 1.2 Million Dollars that the Schools will not have to pay in energy costs.
- 364 jobs were created or retained through Deferred Maintenance and Energy Efficiency Projects.
- The 2011 Quality Schools Grant Program awarded school grants for safety and health, Building Code items, specific services related to the requirements of the accreditation standards, long-term cost-effective benefits to school facilities including technology, enhance educational opportunities for students and Energy Improvements.
- The 3.8 Million Dollars that will be awarded for energy construction projects, the estimated yearly savings from the projects are nearly \$200,000. (\$189,502.00.).

WTR has 3 projects which are currently either in the design phase or are under construction. These projects total about \$828,000.00. These projects will employ 2 engineers and 20-25 construction personnel.

A countless number of contractors around the State have benefited from the work provided from this Grant program. Providing employment is a top priority for many Montanans thus, making the Quality Schools Grant Program very valuable.

I want to acknowledge the hard work that Dept of Commerce has done through these many energy saving construction projects and also recognize Montana Department of Environmental Quality energy program. In the 61st legislative session money was appropriated for energy construction projects. Speaking with several of my clients yesterday who have had the energy construction project implemented, they are very, very appreciative for these grants and the money that is coming out of the legislature.

There is also Another Source of Funding for construction projects and it is called TSEP

Treasure State Endowment Program is Vital to Montana...

TSEP was created by Montana's voters with the passage of Legislative Referendum 110 on June 2, 1992 to fund infrastructure projects such as water, sewer, solid waste and bridges.

Funded by coal tax revenues, this program has an outstanding record of success and it's safe to say that almost all Montanans have been positively impacted.

TSEP means jobs: The diversion of TSEP funds would result in the loss approximately 1,000 Montana jobs in construction, engineering, and related jobs providing materials, fuel, rentals, lodging, meals, etc.

TSEP projects submitted for funding to the 2009 Legislature had a funding leverage of four to one. That ratio means the \$18.5 million in TSEP funds is matched with other funding sources to produce \$92.5 million in engineering and construction.

TSEP funds critical infrastructure: The highest priority for grant application ranking is for projects that solve urgent and serious public health or safety problems.

TSEP means lower fees and taxes: A review of the 2009 projects requesting TSEP funding revealed that water and sewer rates averaged an already affordable \$72/month with TSEP funding and \$97/month without TSEP funding.

TSEP boosts long-term economic development: Infrastructure is the foundation of economic development and our quality of life. By ignoring our leaking pipes, failing wastewater systems and unsafe bridges we are discouraging economic growth.

For this legislative session, communities across Montana are counting on TSEP to help them afford projects that are critical to public health and safety.

Accordingly, we strongly urge the Governor and our state legislators to maintain the Quality Schools Grant Program and the TSEP funding.

Without the Quality Schools Grant Program and TSEP funding, there would be many more unemployed engineers and construction workers.