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STATE OF MONTANA

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MEMO

DATE: February 24, 2006

TO: Legislative Interim Finance Committee
Legislative Interim Economic Affairs Committee

FROM: Evan Barrett, Chief Business Officer 
Governor's Office of Economic Development

SUBJ: Report on ongoing economic development and marketing/recruitment activities

Attached please find four reports which; taken together, represent a reasonable review of the ongoing activities of the Governor's Office of Economic Development. As you know, we do a certain amount of this work directly, a great deal in conjunction with local government and economic development officials, and a lot with the various departments of State government.

The four reports include the following:

- 2005 State Economic Development Funding for Feasibility Studies (planning)
- 2005 State Economic Development Job Creation Involving State Program Financial Participation (Department of Commerce)
- Governor's Office of Economic Development Project Summary Report – February 2006
- Governor's Office of Economic Development "Market Montana and Business Recruitment" Budget Activity Report – February 2006

Following the last meeting of the Legislative Interim Finance Committee, Senators Laible and Ryan visited with me and asked that I provide the Project Summary Report including explanations for reasons project may not have happened in hopes of determining if some legislative remedy might be helpful. I told them at that time, and it remains so today, which the primary challenges we currently face in recruitment and marketing are the lack of adequate State commitment to workforce training grants and the unavailability of adequate building infrastructure available in a timely manner for prospects. A review of the project reports validates those initial assumptions and both of these issues are on the forefront of our economic development needs as we a

Economic Affairs Committee Meeting
May 12, 2006
Exhibit #22

I am more than happy to answer specific questions from any member of the Committee.
If you would like me to appear before the Committee I would be glad to do so.

Thank you.

**THIS EXHIBIT CONTAINS OVER 10 PAGES.
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