

HOUSE BILL NO. 539
INTRODUCED BY G. GROESBECK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING \$500,000 FROM THE STATE GENERAL FUND TO BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BUTTE-SILVER BOW; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, the lingering effects of changes in mining practices worldwide and in southwestern Montana have affected the economic vitality of southwestern Montana, and the general and specific ripple effects of those changes have reduced the availability of cultural resources and the frequency, nature, and scope of cultural events in southwestern Montana, especially in Butte-Silverbow; and

WHEREAS, diminishing access to cultural resources and cultural events is only one of the ripple effects felt by the residents of and visitors to southwestern Montana in general and to Butte-Silver Bow in particular; and

WHEREAS, the reinvigoration of cultural resources and cultural events within Butte-Silver Bow has the potential to create new jobs and greater economic vitality in Butte-Silver Bow specifically and in southwestern Montana generally.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$500,000 from the state general fund to the department of commerce for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, for the sole purpose of assisting Butte-Silver Bow in the reinvigoration of cultural resources and cultural events within Butte-Silver Bow through grants or loans to the Butte-Silver Bow consolidated government, to the Butte-Silver Bow economic development authority, or to other entities within Butte-Silver Bow whose primary purpose is the expansion or enhancement of the cultural resources and opportunities available within Butte-Silver Bow.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2007.

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