



AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING GRANTS; AUTHORIZING GRANTS FROM THE MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PLACING CONDITIONS ON GRANTS AND FUNDS; APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITIES FOR REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM PROJECTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Section 1. Appropriation for Montana coal endowment program grants. (1) There is appropriated \$23,843,500 from the Montana coal endowment special revenue account established in 17-5-703(3)(a) to the department of commerce for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, to finance Montana coal endowment program grants authorized by subsection (2).

(2) The following applicants and projects are authorized for grants and are listed in the order of their priority:

Infrastructure Applicant (project type)	Grant Amount
1. Cascade, Town of (wastewater)	\$625,000
2. Havre, City of (water)	\$500,000
3. Dodson, Town of (water)	\$500,000
4. Thompson Falls, City of (water)	\$750,000
5. Twin Bridges, Town of (water)	\$750,000

6.	Dutton, Town of (water)	\$625,000
7.	Geraldine, Town of (water)	\$500,000
8.	Wolf Point, City of (wastewater)	\$625,000
9.	Forsyth, City of (water)	\$500,000
10.	Saco, Town of (wastewater)	\$500,000
11.	Troy, City of (water)	\$750,000
12.	Choteau, City of (water)	\$625,000
13.	Craig County Water & Sewer District (wastewater)	\$400,000
14.	Red Lodge, City of (wastewater)	\$500,000
15.	Superior, Town of (wastewater)	\$750,000
16.	Libby, City of (wastewater)	\$460,000
17.	Corvallis Sewer District (wastewater)	\$500,000
18.	Shelby, City of (wastewater)	\$444,500
19.	Hot Springs, Town of (wastewater)	\$750,000
20.	Hideaway Community Co. Water & Sewer District (wastewater)	\$750,000
21.	Belt, Town of (water)	\$500,000
22.	Bigfork Water & Sewer District (wastewater)	\$500,000
23.	Martinsdale Water & Sewer (water)	\$750,000
24.	Victor Water & Sewer District (wastewater)	\$500,000
25.	Cooke Pass, Cooke City, Silvergate Co. Sewer District (wastewater)	\$750,000
26.	Absarokee Water & Sewer District (water)	\$500,000
27.	Boulder, City of (water)	\$500,000
28.	Richey, Town of (water)	\$500,000
29.	Circle, Town of (water)	\$625,000
30.	Kalispell, City of (water/wastewater)	\$750,000
31.	Lockwood Water & Sewer District (water)	\$750,000

32.	Philipsburg, Town of (water)	\$625,000
33.	Chester, Town of (wastewater)	\$500,000
34.	Hingham, Town of (wastewater)	\$750,000
35.	Black Eagle-Cascade Co. Water & Sewer District (wastewater)	\$414,000
36.	Denton, Town of (wastewater)	\$500,000
37.	Drummond, Town of (wastewater)	\$500,000
38.	Gallatin Canyon County Water & Sewer District (wastewater)	\$750,000
39.	Townsend, City of (water)	\$750,000
40.	Sunburst, Town of (wastewater)	\$625,000

(3) There is appropriated \$6,366,213 from the Montana coal endowment special revenue account established in 17-5-703(3)(a) to the department of commerce for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, to finance Montana coal endowment program grants authorized by subsection (4).

(4) The following applicants and projects are authorized for grants and are listed in the order of their priority:

	Bridge Applicant	Grant Amount
1.	Beaverhead County	\$750,000
2.	Yellowstone County	\$750,000
3.	Lewis & Clark County	\$379,930
4.	Big Horn County	\$500,000
5.	Park County	\$299,622
6.	Gallatin County	\$750,000
7.	Broadwater County	\$750,000
8.	Petroleum County	\$465,300
9.	Wibaux County	\$691,350
10.	Madison County	\$499,461
11.	Stillwater County	\$340,550

12. Town of Drummond \$190,000

(5) If sufficient funds are available, this section constitutes a valid obligation of funds to the grant recipients listed in subsections (2) and (4) for the purposes of encumbering the funds in the Montana coal endowment special revenue account established in 17-5-703(3)(a) for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, pursuant to 17-7-302. However, a grant recipient's entitlement to receive funds is dependent on the grant recipient's compliance with the conditions described in [section 3(1)] and on the availability of funds.

(6) Any of the projects listed in subsections (2) and (4) that have not completed the conditions described in [section 3(1)] by September 1, 2024, must be reviewed by the next regular legislature to determine if the authorized grant should be withdrawn.

(7) The funds appropriated in this section must be used by the department to make grants to the government entities listed in subsections (2) and (4) for the described purposes and in amounts not to exceed the amounts set out in subsections (2) and (4). The grants authorized in this section are subject to the conditions set forth in [section 3(1)] and described in the Montana coal endowment program 2025 biennium project funding recommendations to the 68th legislature. The legislature, pursuant to 90-6-710, authorizes the grants for the projects listed in subsections (2) and (4). The department shall commit funds to projects listed in subsections (2) and (4), up to the amounts authorized, based on the manner of disbursement set forth in [section 3] until the funds deposited in the Montana coal endowment special revenue account established in 17-5-703(3)(a) during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, are expended.

(8) The award contract with a grantee must require the grantee to post the following statement on its homepage website, promotional materials, and publications: "We are funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in the Montana coal endowment special revenue account."

(9) Grant recipients shall complete all of the conditions described in [section 3(1)] by September 30, 2026, or any obligation to the grant recipient will cease.

Section 2. Approval of grants -- completion of biennial appropriation. (1) The legislature, pursuant to 90-6-701, authorizes grants for the projects identified in [section 1(2) and (4)], the emergency infrastructure grants in [section 5], and the infrastructure planning grants in [section 6].

(2) The authorization of these grants completes a biennial appropriation from the Montana coal endowment special revenue account established in 17-5-703(3)(a).

(3) Grants to entities from prior biennia are reauthorized for completion of contract work.

Section 3. Condition of grants -- disbursements of funds. (1) The disbursement of grant funds for the projects specified in [section 1(2) and (4)] is subject to completion of the following conditions:

(a) The grant must document that other matching funds required for completion of the project are firmly committed.

(b) The grant recipient must have a project management plan that is approved by the department of commerce.

(c) The grant recipient must be in compliance with the auditing and reporting requirements provided for in 2-7-503 and have established a financial accounting system that the department can reasonably ensure conforms to generally accepted accounting principles. Tribal governments shall comply with auditing and reporting requirements provided for in 2 CFR 200.

(d) The grant recipient shall satisfactorily comply with any conditions described in the application's project summaries section of the Montana coal endowment program 2025 biennium project funding recommendations to the 68th legislature.

(e) The grant recipient shall satisfy other specific requirements considered necessary by the department of commerce to accomplish the purpose of the project as evidenced by the application to the department.

(f) Pursuant to 90-6-710(6), the grant recipient shall comply with all Montana coal endowment program requirements as determined by the department of commerce in order to qualify for reimbursement of project expenses.

(g) The grant recipient shall execute a grant agreement with the department of commerce.

(2) With the exception of bridges, all projects must adhere to the design standards required by the department of environmental quality. Recipients of Montana coal endowment program funds that are not subject to the department of environmental quality design standards shall adhere to generally accepted industry standards, such as Recommended Standards for Wastewater Facilities or Recommended Standards for Water

Works, published by the Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River board of state and provincial public health and environmental managers, latest edition.

(3) Recipients of Montana coal endowment program funds are subject to the requirements of the department of commerce as described in the most recent edition of the Montana Coal Endowment Program Project Administration Manual adopted by the department through the administrative rulemaking process.

Section 4. Other powers and duties of department. (1) The department of commerce shall disburse grant funds on a reimbursement basis as grant recipients incur eligible project expenses.

(2) If actual project expenses are lower than the projected expense of the project, the department may, at its discretion:

(a) reduce the amount of grant funds to be provided to grant recipients in proportion to all other project funding sources; or

(b) reduce the amount of grant funds to be provided so that the grant recipient's projected average residential user rates do not become lower than their target rate as determined by the department.

(3) If the grant recipient obtains a greater amount of grant funds than was contained in the Montana coal endowment program application, the department may reduce the amount of the Montana coal endowment program grant funds to be provided to ensure that the grant recipient continues to meet the threshold requirements contained in the program guidelines for receiving the larger Montana coal endowment program grant.

Section 5. Appropriation from Montana coal endowment special revenue account for emergency grants. There is appropriated \$100,000 from the Montana coal endowment special revenue account to the department of commerce for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, for the purpose of providing local governments, as defined in 90-6-701, with emergency grants for infrastructure projects, as defined in 90-6-701.

Section 6. Appropriation from Montana coal endowment special revenue account for infrastructure planning grants. There is appropriated \$900,000 from the Montana coal endowment special

revenue account to the department of commerce for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, for the purpose of providing local governments, as defined in 90-6-701, with the infrastructure planning grants for infrastructure projects, as defined in 90-6-701.

Section 7. Appropriation from Montana coal endowment regional water system special revenue account. (1) There is appropriated \$10 million from the Montana coal endowment regional water system special revenue account to the department of natural resources and conservation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, to finance the state's share of regional water system projects authorized in subsection (2) and as set forth in 90-6-715.

(2) The state's four regional water authorities are authorized to receive the funds appropriated in subsection (1) as long as there are sufficient funds available from the amount that was deposited in the Montana coal endowment regional water system special revenue account during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023.

(3) A regional water authority's receipt of funds is dependent on the authority's compliance with the conditions described in [section 9(1)].

(4) This section constitutes a valid obligation of funds to the regional water authorities identified in subsection (2) for the purposes of encumbering the funds in the Montana coal endowment regional water system special revenue account received during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, under 17-7-302.

Section 8. Approval of funds -- completion of appropriation. (1) The legislature, pursuant to 90-6-715, authorizes funds for the regional water authorities identified in [section 7(2)].

(2) The authorization of these funds completes an appropriation from the Montana coal endowment regional water system special revenue account provided for in 17-5-703(3)(b).

Section 9. Conditions -- manner of disbursement of funds. (1) The disbursement of funds under [sections 7 and 8] is subject to completion of the following conditions:

(a) The regional water authority shall execute an agreement with the department of natural resources and conservation.

- (b) The regional water authority must have a project management plan that is approved by the department.
- (c) The regional water authority shall establish a financial accounting system that the department can reasonably ensure conforms to generally accepted accounting principles.
- (d) The regional water authority shall provide the department with a detailed preliminary engineering report.
- (2) The department shall disburse funds on a reimbursement basis as the regional water authority incurs eligible project expenses.

Section 10. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

Section 11. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 11, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2023.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2023.

HOUSE BILL NO. 11

INTRODUCED BY J. FITZPATRICK

BY REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING GRANTS; AUTHORIZING GRANTS FROM THE MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PLACING CONDITIONS ON GRANTS AND FUNDS; APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITIES FOR REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM PROJECTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.