

From: donotreply@legmt.gov
To: [LEG Cmte-RVIC Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment for RIC
Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 3:47:48 PM

Public Comments for the Revenue Interim Committee

Date: 1st November 2023 15:47

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Subject:

Comment in support of TIF

Comment:

Hello. I am the Executive Director of the Billings Depot, a nonprofit, community event center in Downtown Billings. Our mission is to not only preserve and protect our historic campus, but also to contribute to the spirit, vitality, and growth of the Billings community. Over the last 4 years, the Depot has taken advantage of programs provided through the TIF district including signage assistance and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, both having a significant impact on the beautification and safety of our campus. We work closely with all our community organizations, like Big Sky Economic Development, Downtown Billings Alliance, Billings Chamber, and Visit Billings. Because of this, it's critical our campus is maintained and preserved so we can continue to program the space in support of workforce development, tourism, talent attraction, and economic development. As a nonprofit, funding is often a challenge and so we rely heavily on programs like TIF to help offset some of our expenses and allow us to bring projects forward faster. The Billings Depot will be undertaking a large capital improvement project in 2024 which will repair walkways, doors, roof surfaces and restore our historic mail building. We will be applying for TIF support to help finance a portion of this project which directly impacts public use spaces. The TIF program is significant for the Depot and has also provided support to the Historic Montana Avenue Association. We hope to see it continue to drive greater impact for the vitality of our downtown.

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