

Montana State Legislature

65th Montana Legislature - 2017

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Business Report

Signed by Chairman

Roll Call

Attendance

Standing Committee Reports

Tabled Bills

Fiscal Reports

Roll Call Votes

Proxy Forms

Visitor Registration

Additional Documents

Witness Statements that are not presented as exhibits. All informational items handed in after meeting. Petitions; etcetera.

- **Any documents which were submitted after the committee hearing has ended and/or was submitted late within 24 hours regarding information in the committee hearing.**

YOU MAY VIEW THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

AT THE MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES
225 N. ROBERTS
HELENA, MT 59620-1201
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
E-DOCUMENT SPECIALIST: SUSIE HAMILTON**

BUSINESS REPORT

**MONTANA SENATE
65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

SENATE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2017
Place: Capitol

Time: 3:00 PM
Room: 405

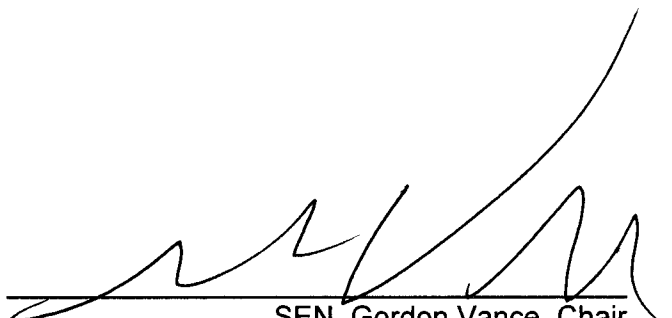
BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:

SR 39 - Confirm Governor's appointees to Transportation Commission - Sen. Gordon Vance
SR 51 - Confirm Governor's appointees to the Board of Aeronautics - Sen. Gordon Vance

EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

SR 39 - Be adopted
SR 51 - Be adopted
HB 562 - Be concurred in as amended

Comments:

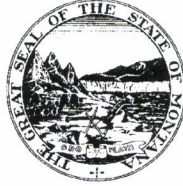


SEN. Gordon Vance, Chair

MONTANA STATE SENATE
ROLL CALL
HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

DATE: 4/11/17 2017

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT/ EXCUSED
Chairman Vance	✓	
Vice Chair Fitzpatrick	✓	
Vice Chair Whitford	✓	
Senator Boland		✓
Senator Brown	✓	
Senator Buttrey	✓	
Senator Gauthier	✓	
Senator Gross		✓
Senator Pomnichowski		✓
Senator Webb		✓



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 11, 2017

Page 1 of 1

Mr. President:

We, your committee on **Highways and Transportation** report that **Senate Resolution 39** (first reading copy -- white) **be adopted**.

Signed: _____

Senator Gordon Vance, Chair

- END -

Committee Vote:

Yes 10, No 0

Fiscal Note Required ☐

SR0039001SC.sjc



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 11, 2017

Page 1 of 1

Mr. President:

We, your committee on **Highways and Transportation** report that **Senate Resolution 51** (first reading copy -- white) **be adopted**.

Signed:

A blue ink signature, appearing to be "Gordon Vance", is written over a horizontal line.

Senator Gordon Vance, Chair

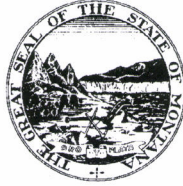
- END -

Committee Vote:

Yes 10, No 0

Fiscal Note Required ☐

SR0051001SC.sjc



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 11, 2017

Page 1 of 1

Mr. President:

We, your committee on **Highways and Transportation** report that **House Bill 562** (third reading copy -- blue) **be concurred in as amended.**

Signed: _____

Senator Gordon Vance, Chair

To be carried by Senator Mark Blasdel

And, that such amendments read:

1. Page 1, line 27.

Following: "\$100"

Insert: ", community service hours, or both"

2. Page 2, line 20.

Following: "\$100"

Insert: ", community service hours, or both"

3. Page 4, line 10.

Following: "\$100"

Insert: ", community service hours, or both"

- END -

Committee Vote:

Yes 6, No 4

Fiscal Note Required X

HB0562001SC13790.sjc

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
ROLL CALL VOTE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE**

DATE: 4/11, 2017 BILL # HB562 VOTE 6-4

MOTION: Be Concurred in as amended

NAME	AYE	NO	PROXY	EXCUSED
VICE CH. FITZPATRICK		✓		
VICE CH. WHITFORD	✓			
SEN. BOLAND		✓		
SEN. BROWN	✓			
SEN. BUTTREY	✓			
SEN. GAUTHIER	✓			
SEN. GROSS	✓			
SEN. POMNICHOWSKI		✓		
SEN. WEBB		✓		
CHAIRMAN VANCE	✓			

SR 51 - Confirm Governor's appointees to the Board of Aeronautics

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SENATE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Sponsor: **Sen. Gordon Vance**

PLEASE PRINT

[illegible]

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

Montana Code Annotated 20154/11/17
SR 51[Previous Section](#) [MCA Contents](#) [Part Contents](#) [Search](#) [Help](#) [Next Section](#)

2-15-2506. Board of aeronautics -- qualification -- allocation -- quasi-judicial. (1) There is a board of aeronautics.

(2) The board consists of nine members. The members are:

- (a) one member of the Montana pilots' association;
- (b) one member of the Montana chamber of commerce;
- (c) one representative of the Montana airport management association;
- (d) one member of the Montana county commissioners association or the Montana league of cities and towns;
- (e) one person actively engaged in aviation education in this state;
- (f) one person representative of interstate commercial airline operators, who must at the time of appointment be an employee or official of an interstate commercial airline operator and a resident of this state;
- (g) one person representing the general public;
- (h) one member of the association of Montana aerial applicators; and
- (i) one person who must at the time of appointment be an active fixed base operator in this state, or an official of a fixed base operator in this state, of flying services or flying schools.

(3) The board is allocated to the department of transportation for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(4) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124.

(5) The administrator of the aeronautics division shall act as liaison between the board and the department of transportation.

History: En. 82A-905 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-905; MCA 1979, 2-15-1103; redes. 2-15-1812 by Sec. 12, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 685, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 512, L. 1991; Sec. 2-15-1812, MCA 1989; redes. 2-15-2506 by Sec. 17, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 394, L. 1993.

Provided by Montana Legislative Services

WILLIAM E. HUNT, JR.

PO Box 569
201 Main Street
Shelby, MT 59474
Hunt Law Firm, LLC

Attorney at Law

406-434-3900 Phone
1-866-868-8943 Fax
huntlaw@3rivers.net

Professional and Work Experience

2000-Present. Self-employed in solo law practice, Shelby, Montana.

General law practice centered mostly on local government law, real estate, commercial transactions, probate, and estate planning.

2000-Present: Contract attorney for City of Shelby and Town of Chester

2014-Present: Contract attorney for Town of Sunburst

1998-2000. Law Clerk, Montana Ninth Judicial District Court.

1988-Present. Montana Army National Guard.

Commissioned officer since 1993.

- o Held leadership and supervisory assignments in maintenance management (Ordinance) and Logistics.

- o Current branch is Judge Advocate and assigned to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Helena, Montana.

Education

2012-2013, JAOBC, The U.S. Army Judge Advocate Legal Center and School, Charlottesville, Virginia

1995-1998. JD, The Montana School of Law

1985-1990. BA, English Literature. University of Montana

Board and Community Experience

Montana Aeronautics Board, Representing League of Cities and Towns, 2005 to Present

State Workforce Innovation Board, 2013 to Present

Youth Committee chairperson, 2013 to 2016

Education and Training Committee chairperson, 2016 to Present

Board member of Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce, 2013 to 2016

Shelby Kiwanis, 2014 to Present

Tri County Shriners, 2014 to Present

EMT, Toole County Ambulance, 1998-2008

Numerous other past associations with volunteer civic organizations.

Personal Interests

I am a 51 year old father of a 4½ year old daughter. When I'm not busy doting on her, I like to read, garden, ski, and wood work. I have recently discovered the Zen of building projects using antique, non-power tools.

References

Dr. Larry Bonderud, Mayor, City of Shelby

LtCol Beverly Schneider, Staff Judge Advocate, Montana Air National Guard

Pam Bucy, Commissioner, Department of Labor

Roger & Mable Lincoln

15176 Hingham Rd N
Gildford, Montana 59525
406.355.4943

1. Lifelong Montana resident
2. Pilot for 61 yrs Comm. 57 yrs.
3. 53 yrs. crop sprayer
4. Current owner of Aviation
fuel tanker (Hauri Mt.)
5. Member Hill County App board.
6. ~~Member~~ Board member of
Montana Community Airports Assn.
7. Member Montana Pilots Assn.

Roger Lincoln



**Governor
Steve Bullock**



[Return to Search Page](#)[View/Add Comments](#)

Appointee Application

Attached Documents

Board Council or Commission Information

0

Previously Served:

Open Interest:

Contact Information

Salutation:

First Name:
Tricia

Last Name:
McKenna

Mailing Address

Address 1:
110 Churn Creek Rd

Address 2:

City:
Bozeman

State:
MT

Zip:
59715

County:

Residence Address

Address 1:

Address 2:

City:

State:

Zip:

County:

Primary Phone Number:
406-587-4746

Secondary Phone Number:
406-587-5166

Email:
t cub@montanadsl.net

Qualifications

Walter I McNutt's Biography

Born Nov.8th 1940 Worland Wyoming, Moved to Montana 1957 to Great Falls, Great Falls High Graduate, Graduated from Then College of Great Falls with a B.S degree in marketing and economics, Case IH equipment dealer from 1970 to 2005. Served on the following Richland Economic Development past president, Sidney Richland Regional Authority present chairman, Richland Solid Waste Board, currently Montana Essential Air Service Task Force member, past Director of 1st Bank Sidney, chamber of Commerce, Discharged Honorably from The Montana Air National Guard, Served in the Montana Senate from 1997 until 2004, Was President PRO Temp 201 to 2004, Served in The Montana House of Representatives from 2005 to 2012, Current Chairman of the Wing of Freedom Air Show in Sidney. Married my wife's name is Karen I McNutt we have 2 daughters Kim McNutt Roberts and Tami Christensen

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY


**SIDNEY W. FITZPATRICK, JR.
CROW AGENCY, MT**

EXPERIENCE

Big Horn County Commissioner	2010 to present
Apsaalooke Contracting, Owner	2010 to present
Senator Crow Nation	2006 to 2009

ASSOCIATIONS SERVED

Montana Association of Counties, Reservation Counties Committee, Chair	2015 to 2016
National Association of Counties Intergovernmental Affairs, Subcommittee Intertribal Relations, Vice Chair	2015 to present
National Association of Counties Intergovernmental Affairs, Subcommittee Intertribal Relations, Chair	2013 to 2015

Mar 10 

Stats by **406 MT SPORTS** (<http://stats.406mtsports.com/>)

		Final	Scheduled			Final	Scheduled			
<	Boys Basketball	Billings West	55	<	Kalispell Glacier	Whitehall	71	<	Anaconda	>
		Missoula Sentinel	47			Billings Skyview	Lodge Grass			

http://missoulain.com/news/state-and-regional/wadekamper-preparing-for-takeoff-as-new-helena-airport-director/article_d87ffb0a-ccb0-11e3-82d6-001a4bcf887a.html

Wadekamper preparing for takeoff as new Helena airport director

By AL KNAUBER, The Independent Record Apr 26, 2014



ELIZA WILEY/Independent Record

Jeff Wadekamper has been selected to replace Ron Mercer as the new director of the Helena Regional Airport. Wadekamper is currently the assistant director.

Jeff Wadekamper was raised to believe in the value of hard work.

His parents, Leo and Mary, taught him the importance of being honorable and truthful, too, he said. All are qualities that have helped him advance from summer jobs mowing grass at Helena Regional Airport while in high school through progressively more responsible roles.

Wadekamper is now the assistant airport director. In a little more than a month, he will become the airport's director. Ron Mercer, the current director, retires on May 27, and Wadekamper will move into the corner office that Mercer will have occupied for 27 years.

"I owe all of it really to Ron," he said. "He's taught me all I know about the business."

He also credits his success to his wife, Sharene, who is from Helena. They have been married almost 11 years.

"She's supported me through all my years at the airport," he said.

Howard Skjervem, chairman of the airport authority, said a national search was conducted to look for Mercer's successor. Wadekamper rose to the top of that field for several reasons, including the training and mentoring he's received by Mercer.

Wadekamper's relationship with the airlines that serve Helena was another reason for him to be the next director, Skjervem said.

Working with Mercer has allowed Wadekamper to understand how the airport has evolved and be able to continue in that direction, Skjervem continued, while noting that Wadekamper is a thoughtful person who doesn't jump to conclusions.

The airport authority plans to meet with Wadekamper to hear his vision for the airport. This will also be a chance for him to hear what members of the airport authority are thinking, too.

"It's kind of been my lifelong goal working at the airport," Wadekamper said of his ambition to one day become its director.

"I always knew I wanted to do something around aviation because I loved it."

Aviation has always been a part of his life. His father managed an airport in Park Rapids,

Minnesota. Both Leo and Mary were flight instructors.

The family moved to Helena in 1983 when Wadekamper was 9 and his father began working for the Federal Aviation Administration as an aviation safety inspector.

Wadekamper just turned 40, and for 23 years he's been a part of the airport's operations. From mowing grass between his junior and senior years at Capital High School, he would return to work there when not attending Montana State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in business management.

With the degree in hand, he thought it was time to "get a real job," he said and laughed. The search for work didn't take long.

The retirement of a member of the airport's maintenance staff provided an opportunity for Wadekamper, who applied. Mercer hired him. He advanced to the position of business development officer and began to learn from Mercer the administrative part of how the airport operated. It was in this role Wadekamper first learned about leasing of airport lands, which provides an important source of revenue for the airport.

Lee Enterprises, the parent company of the Independent Record, leases land there as does the warehouse grocery store Costco.

"I've enjoyed all the positions I've had at the airport," Wadekamper said.

Models of airplanes — fighters — adorn his office. He once wanted to fly them but didn't have the perfect vision that's required of these pilots. He has helped his father restore a former military training aircraft and flies it as well as the other two civilian planes that his parents own.

Flying is a hobby for him just as is restoring two pickup trucks that he uses for drag racing, primarily in Anaconda. Models of hotrods, as well as airport fire trucks, sit on shelves in his office, too.

But racing and flying don't compete with his interest in the airport. From the window of his office he can watch as commercial flights arrive and depart. The airport's 9,000-foot main runway lies just beyond.

It's important to him, he said, that in his role as airport director he continues the viability of the airport.

He's proud that flights from Helena can take passengers to four airline hubs. He wants to make sure the airlines that serve Helena continue to have flights that are full so the airlines remain interested in serving Helena.

Adding to the aerospace businesses at the airport — Boeing leases land there and Pioneer Aerostructures is building a manufacturing facility there — will be important for the airport's revenue as well as the community's tax base, Wadekamper said.

The airport is planning to install automated equipment to collect parking fees, a move that's seen as paying for itself in three years or less and adding about \$100,000 annually to the airport's revenue.

No significant changes are being planned by Wadekamper, who said "What we've been doing has been working pretty well."

"I'm excited for the future and really happy to have the opportunity," he said. "It's a dream for me."

Being a part of the airport, he explained, "to me it's really a passion. Truly every morning I look forward to coming to work."

"This is truly what I've always wanted to do," Wadekamper said.

"I feel very fortunate. I'm a lucky man."

Currents

Montana Code Annotated 2015

[Previous Section](#) [MCA Contents](#) [Part Contents](#) [Search](#) [Help](#) [Next Section](#)

2-15-2502. Transportation commission. (1) There is a transportation commission composed of five members. One member must be a resident of and appointed from each of these districts, each composed of the counties named:

- (a) District 1. Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell;
- (b) District 2. Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Meagher, Broadwater, Jefferson, Park;
- (c) District 3. Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Pondera, Teton, Chouteau, Cascade, Lewis and Clark;
- (d) District 4. Carter, Powder River, Fallon, Custer, Rosebud, Garfield, Phillips, Valley, McCone, Prairie, Dawson, Wibaux, Richland, Roosevelt, Daniels, Sheridan;
- (e) District 5. Golden Valley, Stillwater, Carbon, Big Horn, Yellowstone, Musselshell, Judith Basin, Fergus, Petroleum, Treasure, Wheatland, Sweet Grass.

(2) Of the members appointed from districts 1, 3, 4, and 5, at least one must have specific knowledge of Indian culture and tribal transportation needs. The member provided for under this subsection must be selected by the governor after consultation with the Montana members of the Montana-Wyoming tribal leaders council.

(3) Two members may not be residents of the same district at the time of appointment or during their respective terms of office.

(4) Not more than three members may at the time of appointment or during their respective terms be members of the same political party.

(5) An elective state official or state officer, during the term of office to which elected or appointed, or a state employee may not be a member of the commission.

(6) A resolution, motion, or other decision of the commission may not be adopted or passed without the favorable vote of at least three members.

(7) The commission is allocated to the department of transportation for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(8) The commission is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124; however, the provision of 2-15-124(1) that at least one member of a quasi-judicial board be an attorney does not apply to the commission.

(9) The commission may adopt rules necessary for its government.

(10) The director of transportation or the director's designee shall act as liaison between the commission and the department.

History: En. Sec. 4-102, Ch. 197, L. 1965; Sec. 32-2402, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-706.1 by Sec. 72, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 186, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-706.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 587, L. 1999.

Provided by Montana Legislative Services

Greg Jergeson

P.O. Box 1568
Chinook, MT 59523

406-357-3483 (home)
406-949-0495 (cell)

gjergeson@gmail.com

Objective

Board or Commission position in Governor Steve Bullock Administration

Profile

Greg Jergeson is a dedicated and experienced Montana public servant, having completed 24 years as a State Senator and eight years as an elected Commissioner on the Montana Public Service Commission, the Montana regulator of public utilities. Greg has shown he is willing and able to tackle the tough issues, make sound decisions and justify those decisions to other responsible officials and the public. He has demonstrated skill analyzing complex, difficult fiscal and regulatory issues. Greg Jergeson has earned a reputation as a clear-thinking, diplomatic and judicious decision maker.

Public Service Experience

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Montana Public Service Commissioner | 2003 – 2011 |
| • Chair | 2005 – 2011 |
| • Organization of MISO State's board member | 2003 – 2011 |
| • National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners | 2003 – 2011 |
| • Second term as Commissioner ended December 31, 2010 | |
| Montana State Senator | 1975 – 81, 1987 – 2003, 2013 - 2015 |
| • Senate Agriculture Committee, 20 years, Chair in 1991 | |
| • Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee – 2 years | |
| • Senate Finance & Claims Committee, 16 years | |
| • Senate Highways Committee, 6 years | |
| • Senate Natural Resources Committee, 6 years | |
| • Senate Public Health Committee, 2 years | |
| • Senate State Administration Committee, 6 years | |
| • Senate Taxation Committee, 2 years | |
| • Legislative Audit Committee, 15 years, 4 as chair | |
| • Legislative Finance Committee, 6 years, 2 as chair | |
| • Senate Majority Leader, 1993, 2 years | |
| Montana Board of Investments member | 1981 – 1985 |
| • Appointed by Governor Ted Schwinden | |

Blaine County Planning Board member	1983 – 2003
Montana Cooperative Development Center board member	2003 – present
• Board President	2016 - ?
Blaine Conservation District Board of Supervisors	2015 – present
Montana Agriculture Development Council	2015 - present

Work/business experience

Montana Public Service Commission	2003 – 2011
Montana State University-Northern Foundation	1995 – 2003
• Director Grants and Business/Industrial Linkages	
Montana State Senate	1975 – 81, 1987 – 2003, 2013 - 2015
4 J Farms, Inc., owner/operator	1987 – 1999
Jergeson Ranch Corporation, officer and employee	1980 – 1987
John Jergeson, farm employee	1966 – 1980

Education

Michigan State University	
Institute of Public Utilities	
Certification in State Regulatory/Rate Practices	2003
University of Montana, Missoula, MT	
B.A. in Political Science	1974
Minor: History	
National Political Science Honorary	
National History Honorary	
National Economics Honorary	
Legislative Intern 1973	
Chinook High School	1969
Co-Salutatorian	
National Honor Society	
Boys State alternate	
Presidential Classroom for Young Americans	

Bio for David Schulz

I am a lifelong resident of the Ruby Valley and Madison County. I am a graduate of Sheridan High School, and attended Carroll College. I grew up on an Angus cattle ranch near Sheridan, and worked it till it was sold in 1995. My wife, Nancy, and I have two children, Kevin, who lives in Pinedale, Wy. and Susanne, who with her husband, Matthew Hill, live in Sheridan.

My experience in public service began with a tenure on the Sheridan School Board for 9 years and the Sheridan City Council for 4 years. I have held numerous other positions serving the residents of my community.

In 1995, I was selected by Madison County as Weed Coordinator. In this position, I worked extensively with landowners as well as land management agencies including MDoT. I held this position for 6 years.

In 2000, I was elected District 1 Madison County Commissioner and began serving in January of 2001. I served 4 terms, concluding the end of 2016. While in this position I sat on numerous boards, committees and councils in cooperation with other commissioners from around the state. In 2012, I was elected by my colleague commissioners to the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) Executive Board, and in 2014 was honored to serve as President of MACo.

As Madison County Commissioner, I was also the Road Supervisor for my district. In this capacity I not only oversaw maintenance of county roads, but also worked closely with MDoT in planning for new construction, resurfacing and maintenance of state highways in my area. Further, I interacted with MDoT on replacement of several bridges off-system to the main highways and utilized TSEP funds to replace a number of other bridges on rivers and streams in Madison County. Additionally, Madison County has two county-owned airports. I interacted regularly with Montana Aeronautics in planning, construction and expansion of these two airports.

My pastimes include enjoying time with my family, playing a little golf now and then and experiencing the beautiful outdoors we are fortunate to be surrounded by here in Southwest Montana.

Barb Skelton
7256 Highway 3
Billings, MT 59106
Phone: 406-245-4076 Email skelgatz@earthlink.net

Barb Skelton has consulted and worked with the United States Senate and Congress since 1974. She was Senator Baucus's Treasure for 8 years, the first women to win the nomination for Lt Governor running with a two time sitting Governor in 1988, she was also the 7th women elected to become a County Commissioner in the State of Montana and the first woman to serve as Chairman of the Board. Barb has been recognized by President Regan for her service on the Selective Service Board and by President Clinton for outstanding work for small businesses in Montana. Governors from both sides of the isle have appointed her to over 50 State Wide and Local Boards serving from the Banking Board to the Montana Highway Commission. Since, she has served in many capacities as a community leader in the past 40 years she has established a significant data base into many areas. As well as enjoying a very favorable report with the media, radio, television and newspapers. She is now developing social media as it pertains and is useful to the current issues and strategies she is working on.

Skelton is also well known in the Ag Industry for both beef cattle and American Quarter Horses. She owns the Hardenbrook Ranch at Stanford. Her and her daughter have developed and won several World Championships, a two time National Champion, many Quarter Horse Congress Winners as well as regional and local awards in the horse Industry. Intermountain Equestrian Center, of which Skelton is President, is the home of Rocky Mountain Colleges 4 year degree Equine Program. Her pride and joy of that program is the development and growth of the Therapeutic Riding Program, which is also connected with ; Horses Spirits Healing which is for Veterans and Horses a program being developed by her. Skelton was Chair of the Board of Rocky Mountain College at a very difficult time, she lead the college in a very dignified, transparent and fair way to become an even more reputable and outstanding college. Skelton, a 4th generation Montanan, purchased the cattle ranch from her Mother when her Father passed away, the ranch was established in 1887, in the family tradition it is being run by women. Skelton was also awarded the Outstanding Media Award by the Montana Stockgrowers as well as an outstanding board member.

Skelton is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Education, where she is the only woman to have delivered her final speech in a witch's hat. It made significant impression on the college who has invited her back from time to time. She is known at the Intermountain Equestrian Center as the "barn witch".

Skelton has done consulting work for MDU, specifically but not limited to the building of the Hardin Power Plant, the first Power Plan built in Montana in 20 years and since the last. She has also worked with Edison Electric Institute, The American Quarter Horse Association and several other entities. She is passionate about what is good for Montana and the West as well as Veterans.

As President of the Coal Black Cattle Company and Consulting Services, a 20 year old Company she is proud to be part of the Advocates Inc DC team working on energy issues and educational endeavors. In conjunction with Advocates Inc, Skelton does work for the American Petroleum Institute, as well as an educational program for Master Card. She is field director for the Montana Energy Forum, as well.