

Testimony to be provided by City of Harlowton

## **PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE HARLOWTON ROUNDHOUSE - HARLOWTON, MT - PHASE 3**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee; Hello my name is Lauri Teig spelled T-E-I-G and I am the head of the Harlowton Wetland working group and an Environmental Specialist for the US Bureau of Reclamation. I have personally been involved in this project since 2015. In addition, Jason Seyler, DEQ's Brownfields Coordinator, is here to provide support and can answer any questions regarding past and future work planned at this site.

- Harlowton's Milwaukee Road's Railyard and Roundhouse is located on the southern edge of Harlowton and was operated as a railroad repair and refueling depot from 1900 to 1979.
- In 1985, the City of Harlowton acquired the property for \$1.00 after the Milwaukee Railroad declared bankruptcy. This bankruptcy eliminated the town's largest employer and its impact on jobs and the economy is still felt 40 years later.
- For the 1000 residents of Harlowton, the thought of addressing the diesel and asbestos contamination at the Railyard and Roundhouse was beyond daunting.

This all changed in 2015, when DEQ's and Snowy Mountain Development Corporation's Brownfields Programs began assisting the City with grant applications to address the contamination at the railyard and abate the asbestos within the National Historically Registered Roundhouse. The project we are requesting funding for today will help preserve what is left of the last remaining Milwaukee Road Roundhouse in Montana. Only 5 of the original 17 bays are still standing. If the Roundhouse's remaining 15,000 square feet is not preserved, the grandeur and importance of the Milwaukee Road to Harlowton and Montana will be lost forever.

The preservation and restoration of the Harlowton Roundhouse can be broken up into 4 phases.

1. Secure the envelope of the building against the elements by covering broken windows and repairing the roof and siding. Estimated cost is \$21,000.
2. Safely remove a crumbling former interior brick firewall. Estimated at \$43,000.
3. Abate the asbestos found within the Roundhouse. This \$250,000 expense is being covered by a grant from Snowy Mountain Development Corporation.
4. Repair or replace exterior walls, windows, and doors to properly insulate and provide a weather tight enclosure so the Roundhouse could be open to the public. Estimated at \$410,000.

What we are asking of the committee today is to fund even a portion of the above work so that the Roundhouse does not deteriorate further.

As many of you realize the cleanup, preservation, and redevelopment of a boarded up structure as large as the Harlowton Roundhouse is long and multifaceted. The City, with the help of its partners at DEQ and Snowy Mountain Development Corporation, will have completed by the end of the year a community-led Concept Plan for the redevelopment of the 180-acre Railyard, and an alternatives analysis and feasibility study for the redevelopment of the Roundhouse. When the Montana Historic Preservation grant was written many of these planning efforts were in their infancy and could not be discussed in detail in the application. Now more than ever we have the community's backing and the planning tools to ensure the restoration of the Roundhouse will be a success.

Montana Historic Preservation Grant funds are a critical component in the City's efforts to preserve and open to the public the last remaining

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Milwaukee Road Roundhouse in Montana. This preservation effort will complement the City's fantastic Depot Museum and plans for a historic nature trail. This concerted effort will allow the transformation of the Historic Railroad District to once again provide economic stimulus and a brighter future for the City of Harlowton.

Thank you for your time. I would be glad to answer any questions.

## Bonilla, Jamie

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**From:** leg-noreply@mt.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2021 7:54 AM  
**To:** LEG Applications Email Backup; LEG Committee-House Joint Sub on Long-Range Planning testimony  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Bill HB-12: Historic Preservation Grants 2021-01-18 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning Successfully Submitted on 01-15-21 07:54  
**Attachments:** Harlowton RdHouse MHPG Testimony\_2021-1-15\_DOC3.pdf

### Details:

Bill: HB-12: Historic Preservation Grants 2021-01-18 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Harlowton Roundhouse Committee

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Written Statement: Not Provided

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