Senate Energy & Telecomm.Comm.
Exhibit No. 1
Date 2-4-21
Bill No. SR 34

Jerry Bennett 784 Taylor Rd. Libby, Mt. 59923 406-293-1656 (c) 406-2937012 (h)

Title sought: Director DNRC/ other committee appointments

Dear Governor Gianforte;

Having a balance of 40+ years of private sector experience and 12 years experience in government service to the people, I will have a unique understanding and approach to this opportunity. Establishing many positive relationships statewide with Senators, Representatives, Staff, Commissioners, as well as Constituents, I believe it will help me hit the ground running. In preparation if you decided I would be the right person for the job, it would be helpful to understand your short and long term objectives for the Department and the State as a whole.

Respectfully,

Jerry Bennett

Jerry

Bennett

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jbennett@libby.org

Libby, Mt.

Summary:

Successful entrepreneur for 40+ years in service and retail enterprises. Maximizing profits while minimizing expenses in a challenging business environment.

Skills:

Team Leadership	Verbal Communications
Team Liaison	Project Management

Business Experience:

1976-1980 Partner in an independent logging business

1980-1995 Manager of two different service companies

1996-2014 Owner operator of a successful service venture

Community & Government Experience:

1976-2020 Chairman or President of approx. 14 boards and committees in the state and county

2009-2017 State Representative

2x Majority Whip, Chairman of Judiciary, Natural Resource committees, Vice Chair Judiciary, Natural Resources, State Adm., Rules, EQC

2017-present Lincoln County Commissioner

Education: Diploma Libby High School, Accounting Flathead Community College

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
BY MARK THOMPSON

Someone once asked me why I am involved with the Montana Mining Association. In my typical fashion, I made a short answer quite long. I told this person that my son was working in the oil fields of North Dakota, and that his childhood best friend from Butte was working at a coal mine in Gillette, Wyoming. Both were able to (http://montanamining.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/mark_thompson.jpg)find meaningful employment outside of Montana. It sickens me that our state exports Montana's sons and daughters so that they may find family wage jobs and careers. I want to do what I can to provide my son the opportunities that I have had so that he may live in Montana and raise a family as I did.

There is great value in natural resource development and the kind of jobs they afford. Oil, gas, timber, mining and manufacturing created the middleclass. And since I don't know much about oil or timber, the Mining Association was it for me; my way to fight for the jobs and opportunities that keep us from sending our kids out of state. I say "fight" because it's these industries, those that come from the ground, that are under attack by movements like the "Keep it in the Ground" campaign, and the 'death by a thousand cuts' being waged by rule makers.

In early 2011, I sat and listened to then MMA president, Tim Dimock, testify in front of a special legislative hearing on economic development. The message he carried to those lawmakers was not one of doom and gloom for the existing operations, although he conceded that mineral deposits were finite, and eventually even the greatest resources will play out. His concern for the longevity of our industry was that there were an insufficient number of advanced exploration projects in the "pipeline" to sustain the industry, and that Montana needed to send a stronger message to the national and international investment community that we were "open for business". That year, the legislature passed SB 306, a bill that provided "clarification" of the cyanide ban for open pit mining; a powerful message from the lawmakers that may have benefited the mining industry. Unfortunately, the bill was branded with a veto stamp, yet another powerful message to the investment community, to miners, and our sons and daughters.

In concept, I had a thorough understanding of the messages that Tim, the Legislature, and our former Governor were sending for all to hear, but it was not until this past year that I actually understood the impact of those *messages*, those which resulted in layoffs across Montana's mining industry; 119 at Stillwater, 205 at Troy, and 140 at Golden Sunlight. Our brother and sister miners don't have new mining operations in Montana to move onto, not yet. We'll be lucky if they hold on for opportunities which remain in the hands of the regulatory agencies.

Montana's mining industry is resilient. It has, after all, been around since before statehood as one of the most powerful economic engines in our state. And through the darkness that has put a damper on industry optimism for mining across the country, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. A new application for a Mining Operation Permit was submitted just before the end of December. *Talk about a nice Christmas present.* Up in the Northwest corner of the

state, two long fought battles wage on, in hopes of finally putting into development two large mineral deposits. And elsewhere around the state, members of ours are proposing expansions of their existing operations and there is some limited exploration being conducted or planned.

It ain't over 'til it's over. The road ahead may be rocky, the future uncertain. But for the same reason that I got involved with the MMA to begin with, I'll keep fighting the good fight with all of you. We owe it to ourselves, to our families, and t our state to continue to stay involved, active, and coalesced as an Association.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President.

Greg Gianforte
P.O. Box 877
Helena, MT 59624

Dear Governor-elect Gianforte:

Congratulations on your successful campaign. I believe Montana will finally move forward with your leadership. I am a professional engineer with over 35 years of experience based in Montana responsibly developing and managing innovative resource-based activities in coal, electric power, industrial mineral, and oil & gas arenas. I am currently General Manager of a Bakken focused crude by rail business unit and pursuing a PhD in Mining Engineering and Management from South Dakota Mines.

I'm sure you are aware Montana ranked 49th in GDP per job among the 50 states according to BEA in 2018.[1] Legatum ranks Montana 31st in overall prosperity and U.S. News ranks us as the 28th best state overall.[2] We should be able to do better. Data from Yale and Legatum[3] appears to link responsible economic development with enhanced prosperity, measured as economic, environmental, and social performance across 180 countries and the United States.

Each mineral industry job in Montana generates 2.1 times as much GDP and 1.3 times as much personal income as the state average.[1] Montana's mineral industries contributed the 10th highest employment percentage and GDP contribution of the 50 states.[1] Responsible mineral activities could increase Montana's prosperity but these activities face significant huddles including much of Montana's history and current policies.

If I can be of assistance to your administration and serve Montana in any manner, please contact me.

Again congratulations!

Sincerely,

Ray W. Sheldon, PE
P.O. Box 155
Huntley, MT 59037
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[1] Based upon Bureau of Economic Analysis 2018 data.
[2] U.S. Prosperity Index, 2020, Legatum Institute, Best States 2019, U.S. News & World Report.
[3] Wendling, et al., 2020 and Legatum Institute, 2020

Ray W. Sheldon, P.E.
P.O. Box 155
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Seeking an opportunity to apply my knowledge and experience to improving governance policies for responsible mineral development and extraction.

EDUCATION

1982	BS Mining Engineering	Montana College of Mineral Science & Technology
1983	MS Mining Engineering	Montana College of Mineral Science & Technology
1993	MBA	University of Montana
Pending	PhD Mining Eng. & Mgmt	South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER MONTANA

EMPLOYMENT

October 2020 – Present Global Companies, LLC – Huntley, MT
Continuing as General Manager for Global North Dakota/Basin Transload after Global bought out the other owners in Basin Transload.

February 2013 – September 2020 Basin Transload, LLC – Billings, MT
General Manager providing business, operational and strategic management for two unit train crude by rail transloading sites in North Dakota owned by an LLC with three active owners. These sites have also handled proppants and natural gas liquids.

July 2007 – January 2013 Diamond B Companies, Inc. - Billings, MT
Development Director providing investment analyses and technical management specializing in energy and agricultural areas. Developed and implemented crude oil and frac sand transloading facilities to support the Bakken and Niobrara oil fields. Serve on the board for a couple of Diamond B's investments.

June 2006 – November 2011 SynCoal Partners, LLC/SynCoal Solutions, Inc. -Centennial, CO
Partner, CEO and President of technology startup company dedicated to pursuing the commercial application of the next generation of SynCoal technology in the international utility and industrial marketplace.

May 2005 – July 2007 Warren Transport, Inc - Billings, MT
Operational responsibility for two divisions and ash marketing company as well as business development to diversify in some new directions while providing management and administrative depth for a privately held business.

April 2002 – May 2005 Rocky Mountain Power / Centennial Energy Resources
Billings, MT / Hardin, MT / Bismarck, ND
Managed a unique electric generation plant development project redeploying a reconditioned boiler plant from South Africa and a reconditioned turbine generator from South Korea. Restructured the project after the power sales contract was cancelled including permitting, interconnects, transmission paths, a TIFD, major supply contracts and community relations.

January 1981 - May 2002 Western Energy Company / Western SynCoal Company
Butte, MT / Colstrip, MT / Billings, MT
Advanced through several engineering positions involving corporate development, mine planning and evaluation and coal process development. Provided cross-unit focus to computerization of budget monitoring and mine planning. Worked in the metals group as a geologic modeler and resource evaluator. Gained experience in process engineering / design and intellectual property management while implementing a multi-year, multi-million dollar research and development program. Earned professional engineering license (current) and MSHA mine foreman certification.

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Gained experience in business plan development, permitting, contract administration, and conflict resolution as Project Manager for the development, construction and operation of the $105 million ACCP Demonstration Project in Colstrip, Montana. Involved in all aspects of forming and managing Western SynCoal, Rosebud SynCoal Partnership, and customers, contractors and the Department of Energy relationships. Additional experience was gained lobbying for special legislation at both the state and federal level and working with the Internal Revenue Service on Section 29 related Private Letter Rulings. Provided revenue management support to the corporate office for Western Energy and Northwestern Resources. Additional duties involved direct support of customer relation management and lead responsibility for strategic initiative implementation for Montana Power's coal division. After Westmoreland's acquisition of Western Energy, managed the suspension of SynCoal's operations, including the impacted customer relationships and efforts to sell Western SynCoal.

EXPERIENCE / SKILLS

General Management

General Business Management	- Overall strategic management
Operational Administration & Management	- Managed Multiple Transloading/Trucking
	- Annual plans, Federal lease

Project & Business Development

Project Management	- DOE Clean Coal Project $105M
	- HGS Project $150 M
	- Design / Construction of Unit Train Facilities
	- Two crude oil pipeline connections
Engineering Administration & Management	- Managed Variety of Engineering Projects
Contract Negotiation & Management	- Engineer/Construct/Consult/Materials
	- Transloading, Storage, Coal Agreements
	- Implemented restructured coal contracts
Concept Development/Project Negotiations	- Coal, Power & Transportation Projects
	- Permitting, interconnection, & transmission
	- Construction & operational planning
	- Develop new business opportunities

Technology Development

Process Engineering	- Crude, NGL, Coal, Power Generation
Process Design	- Terminal, SynCoal, Steam Generation, Water Treatment
Intellectual Property Management	- Managed Patent Process - 18 countries
Inventor	- Supplemental Firing Process

Project Evaluation

Mine & Construction Surveying / Mapping	- Coal, Roads & Rail Track
Computer Programming	- Mine Software & General Database
Mine Planning & Design	- Surface Coal & Precious Metal
Reserve Estimation	- Coal & Metals
Proforma Development	- Terminal, Coal, Power and Transportation Projects

General

Political Relationships	- State of Montana, Severance Tax Exemption
	- U.S. DOE, State of North Dakota, LEC / LERC
	- Congress / Section 29 / Tax Incr. Financing
Sales	- SynCoal, ROM coal, Logistical services
Divestiture Support	- Montana Power Coal Division
Special Projects	- litigation support, corporate ERP system
	- corporate tax shelter investment evaluation, etc.

Our History

We are an independent bank locally owned and managed.

How it Started

The history of our bank traces back to the first financial institution in Big Timber. In 1890 William Shanks and Thomas Lee placed some private funds in an office safe and for a while did a loan business. The following year Shanks helped organize and became Vice President of Big Timber National Bank. In 1913 Big Timber National was reorganized as Commercial Bank and Trust Company. Early day Big Timber luminaries, C.T. Busha and Oscar Nepstad were bank directors. You will note Busha Street in Big Timber and Nepstad Ditch on area maps.

Citizens State Bank was incorporated in 1906. Its principal founder, an Irish immigrant named Charles McDonnell walked into Sweet Grass County behind a band of sheep in the 1870s and became a prosperous land owner, business man, and state Senator. His granddaughter, is one of our directors.

In 1927, Citizen State Bank and Commercial Bank & Trust Company merged into Citizens Bank & Trust Company. At that time, Anthony Arneson, who had been President and principal stockholder of the Commercial Bank became President of the new bank. Arneson, a second generation American of Norwegian descent, got off the train in Big Timber in 1889 or '90. For a while, he worked as a hod carrier during the construction of the Grand Hotel. Then, using borrowed money he bought a half interest in a small ranch on Swamp Creek north of town. At the same time he took up a 320-acre homestead on nearby open range. Eventually, he became one of the largest landowners in the area.

Our Harlowton branch, formerly Continental National Bank traces its roots back to 1905 when Benjamin Urner started a private bank. This was three years before the Milwaukee Road arrived. In 1906 Urner's bank was chartered as the State Bank of Harlowton and built a two story building. In 1917 the bank was purchased by Weyburn Security Banking Company and renamed Continental Bank and Trust Company. C. A. Johnson became manager. Norwest Bancorporation purchased the bank in 1930 and renamed it Continental National Bank. A month later, they absorbed Farmers National Bank of Harlowton. In 1947 a group of local investors bought the bank and operated it as an independent bank for over 60 years.

In the summer of 2008, the stockholders of Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Big Timber purchased Continental National Bank. Since then we have grown in Wheatland county continuing to provide banking services in Harlowton and the surrounding communities.

Lessons From Our Past

Looking back we are very proud of how we remained trustworthy partners to our customers during tough times. The mid-1980s was much deeper here in Montana than in much of the country. Everything seemed to go me time—especially for our agricultural customers. Livestock and grain prices crashed in a time of t. Hay was scarce and expensive at a time when cattle prices plunged. Input costs of all kinds spiked. At the same time, it seemed like nobody wanted to own land in Montana and real estate prices dropped precipitously as well. During this period, while other institutions were shuttering, we continued to be steadfast in our commitment to our customers. Sometimes, we didn't sleep too well but we stood by our customers as long as we possibly could. Not all of our customers survived financially. Ranches sold and businesses closed.

We believe that we played an instrumental role in helping many of our customers survive that incredibly difficult financial time and would like to think that whenever tough times arise we will fight just as strongly for our customers and communities. We are with you in the Valleys and on the Mountains!

Looking back to earlier days—the 1930s depression—local legend recalls the following story: Charlie McDonnell, one of the founder's sons, was a loan officer and later president of the bank. In those days there were still many small ranches in the area where families got by raising a few head of sheep or cows. Whenever Charlie made a loan to one of these families, he required that they buy a milk cow if they did not have one, so that the kids would always have something to eat. Charlie was a life long bachelor and a very conservative banker, but he had compassion for other peoples children.

Mission

We provide high-quality financial services to make credit available to promote the growth and prosperity of our community.

✔ We have and demonstrate complete integrity in all that we do.

✔ We will support, sustain and improve the communities in which we reside and operate.

✔ We have and will show respect for all employees, customers, vendors and community members.

✔ We will operate our Bank in a safe, conservative, dependable and responsible way.

Big Timber and Sweet Grass County, Harlowton and Wheatland County are small communities and are great places to live. As bankers our jobs and our lives are intertwined with the lives of our customers. We might meet at the grocery store, at the gas station or in a restaurant. We often serve on boards together, go to church together, and cheer our home teams together.

Although we are pretty good people, as bankers go, we are still bankers. As part of a local, national and international financial system, we have to answer to both state and federal regulators. All the rules of banking apply. The difference between us and other bankers is how we use the discretion we have.

We are not bound by the cookie cutter mentality that is built into the computer programs that seem to be making the lending decisions elsewhere these days. Here, you will work with real people who can weigh unusual requests and situations without worrying about how it's done by the big banks.

In some ways as lenders, we are quite conservative. Our credit standards don't change much—whether the times are good or the times are bad.

President's Message

Welcome to Citizens Bank and Trust Company. We are an old fashioned bank in the best sense. Although we offer nearly all of the modern services that people have come to expect, we are primarily about personal service. In fact it's hard to think about our bank separately from the people who work here. In our communities, our customers