



Economic Affairs Interim Committee

58th Montana Legislature

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March 23, 2004

To: Montana Legislators, Interested Business People and Community Leaders
From: Representative Joe McKenney, Economic Affairs Interim Committee chair
Re: Economic Development Proposals Requiring Legislation

The Economic Affairs Interim Committee of the Montana Legislature will be meeting May 5 in Helena to discuss proposals related to economic development in Montana. Many groups are meeting separately around the state, all with the good intention of improving Montana's economy. Some of the proposals being discussed may require legislation. The Economic Affairs Committee is looking at new options for economic development and is examining past economic development activities funded by the Montana Legislature. As various voices weigh in, the Committee wants to make certain it hears from the broadest group of interested parties.

If you have suggestions for economic development legislation that you are preparing for the 2005 Legislature, the Economic Affairs Committee would like to work with you in advance to review and discuss various options. There may be opportunities to coordinate legislation among the various groups. The Committee will meet May 5, June 30-July 1, and August 19. You do not have to come before the Committee with your ideas, but you are welcome to send the ideas to:

Economic Affairs Committee Staff
PO Box 201706
Helena MT 59620-1706.

Although the next legislative session seems far in the future, the preparatory work is already under way for legislation. One proposal for better economic development has been a better-informed legislature. The Committee is working on that approach by seeking to share and encourage these ideas.

The Committee would also like to point out that information on economic development activities being promoted under the Board of Regents' Shared Leadership proposal is available at:
http://www.montanachamber.net/ws/aboutus3.php?page_id=4876. A review of current and past economic development programs in Montana is available at the Economic Affairs Committee website:
http://leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2003_2004/econ_affairs/meeting_materials/EcoDev_History.pdf If you would like to send comments by email, please send to: pmurdo@mt.gov. If you would like your ideas posted to the Committee's website, under your name, please mention that preference in your letter. Staff will contact you regarding criteria for a posting. Thank you.