

Jefferson Local Development Corporation



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October 2, 2002

Mr. Stephen Wright
Administrator & CEO
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208

RECEIVED BY BPA PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT LOG#: <i>RO-0233</i> RECEIPT DATE: SEP 08 2002

RECEIVED BY BPA ADMINISTRATOR'S REC-LOG #: <i>02-0310</i> RECEIPT DATE: <i>10.7.02</i> DUE DATE: APP ACTION _____
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Dear Mr. Wright,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I'm writing to urge BPA's continued funding of and involvement in economic development. We are a private, non-profit development corporation serving the Jefferson County area in southwestern Montana. Jefferson County is home to the Rocky Mountain Trade Corridor (RMTTC), one of our most excellent members that has worked aggressively to develop business and trade activities across North America.

Jefferson County has traditionally been very dependent on natural resource and extractive industries for our economic foundation. With the coming closure of our two major gold mines and the recent difficulty that our ranchers have faced due to drought and depressed markets, we've been working diligently to diversify and expand our economic base while retaining our existing businesses. As a small, largely volunteer entity, we rely heavily on the economic development network across Montana as well as the northwest region in order to move forward. The partnerships that have been developed with key businesses like BPA are vital for the long-term sustainability of economic development in Montana as well as the region.

Effective economic development takes a long-term concerted approach. Given the recent downturn in the national and world economy, we need to bolster and sustain this work more than ever. I'm convinced that our collective work will ultimately be very successful and will pay back investors such as you manifold in the resulting increased business activity. Please reconsider your funding decision. Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Scott Mendenhall
JLDC Manager

APP ACTION: P-6
cc: FO3, DC/Wash, DM-7, GKuntz-DR/MSGL,
STetnowski-PL-6, GKuehn-DM-7