



JOHN ENGEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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April 28, 2009

Tony Preite, Director
Montana Department of Commerce
PO Box 200501
Helena MT 59620-0501

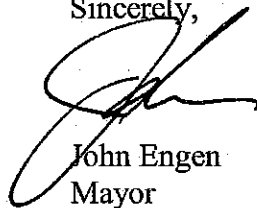
Dear Director Preite,

I support the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Planning Grant application of a feasibility study for the Montana Expo Center. The Montana Expo Center is a multi-purpose event center concept brought forward from a community-based organization of business leaders led by the Missoula Chamber of Commerce. A regional exposition center in Missoula could be a tremendous community asset and the feasibility study is critical in determining what market is available, the type of facility that is needed, and its potential for long term financial sustainability.

I believe a multi-purpose events center could be an important economic development tool for Missoula and Montana. A venue that has the ability to host trade shows, indoor rodeos, athletic tournaments, and other large events has the ability to bring hundreds of visitors from the region to western Montana that will benefit the local economy.

I urge you to give strong consideration to the Missoula/Ravalli CRDC application for the Montana Expo.

Sincerely,



John Engen
Mayor