

Yellowstone County



COMMISSIONERS
(406) 256-2701

P.O. Box 35000
Billings, MT 59107-5000
bocc@yellowstonecountymt.gov

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Troy Downing
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Representative Downing,

I am writing to express my support for Montana State University Billings' Community Project Funding request to expand workforce training capacity at City College through the purchase of an Advanced Process Control Training System.

City College at Montana State University Billings plays a vital role in preparing the skilled technical workforce that supports energy production, industrial operations, and public utility systems throughout Billings, Yellowstone County, and communities across eastern Montana. Employers in our region depend on graduates from the Process Plant Technology and Instrumentation and Electrical Technician programs to safely operate and maintain refineries, power generation facilities, pipelines, municipal water and wastewater systems, and industrial processing facilities.

Reliable infrastructure and energy production are essential to the economic stability of our communities. Expanding hands-on technical training capacity will help ensure Montana businesses and public utilities continue to have access to a locally trained workforce prepared to meet industry and infrastructure needs.

I strongly support this Community Project Funding request and appreciate your continued leadership in supporting workforce development and economic growth across Montana's Second Congressional District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Waters", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Waters, Member
Yellowstone County Commissioner

Yellowstone County



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March 5, 2026

Representative Troy Downing
United States House of Representatives
1529 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: CPF Funding: Exposition Drive (Main Street) and 1st Avenue North Project

Dear Representative Downing,

On behalf of Yellowstone County, please consider this letter as written confirmation of my support of the Montana Department of Transportation's (MDT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Community Project Funding (CPF) funding request for Exposition Drive (Main Street) and 1st Avenue North Project (Project).

Located in the City of Billings, Yellowstone County, Montana, the goal of the Project is to enhance safety, increase vehicle capacity, freight movement, improve street lighting, improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, and stormwater drainage. Two main components of the Project include:

- *Reduced congestion at Main Street and 1st Avenue North Intersection:* Direct westbound right-turn lane on 1st Avenue North (US Route 87) through a signalized lane and into a new receiving lane on Main Street, extend southbound lane queue storage on Main Street, improve left-turning radii for trucks, remove eastbound right-turn slip lane on 1st Avenue North to bring motorists through a traffic signal, upgrade traffic signals to align with new design, and modify or add raised medians.
- *Community improvements throughout Project:* The Project will add or reconstruct sidewalks and buffers along Main Street and 1st Avenue North and improve stormwater drainage system to eliminate ponding water in roadways.

On behalf of the community and the traveling public of Montana, I thank you for your consideration of this important project and look forward to its swift completion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Morse", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark Morse, Chair
Yellowstone County Commissioner

Yellowstone County



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March 4, 2026

The Honorable Troy Downing
United States House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: MSU Billings FY27 Congressionally Directed Spending Request – Advanced Body
Composition Analysis Equipment

Dear Representative Downing:

On behalf of Montana State University Billings, I respectfully request your support for a \$75,000 FY27 Congressionally Directed Spending request to acquire advanced body composition analysis equipment that will strengthen health workforce training and expand preventive health assessment services in our region.

As an institution committed to preparing Montana's future healthcare workforce, MSU Billings provides education and hands-on training for students pursuing careers in rehabilitation, exercise science, and allied health professions. Access to advanced body composition analysis technology will significantly enhance experiential learning opportunities, allowing students to develop practical skills in assessment, data interpretation, and evidence-based intervention planning. This equipment will align classroom instruction with current industry standards and better prepare graduates to meet the growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals across Montana.

In addition to supporting academic programs, the equipment will enable supervised community health screenings focused on chronic disease risk reduction. By expanding preventive health assessment services, MSU Billings can help identify risk factors related to obesity, cardiovascular disease, metabolic disorders, and other chronic conditions—particularly in underserved and rural populations. These screenings will provide valuable early detection and education while giving students meaningful clinical experience under faculty supervision.

This investment will strengthen Montana's healthcare workforce pipeline while advancing community-based prevention efforts that improve long-term health outcomes. I respectfully urge your consideration of MSU Billings' request for \$75,000 to support this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Waters".

Michael J. Waters, Member
Yellowstone County Commissioner

Yellowstone County



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March 4, 2026

The Honorable Troy Downing
U.S. House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Laurel EMS Community Project Funding

Representative Downing,

It is my pleasure to express my strong support of the Laurel EMS Departments application for Community Project Funding to replace essential equipment and secure a new ambulance.

Laurel EMS plays a vital role, not only in the City of Laurel, but in the western part of Yellowstone County. Calls for service in the western part of Yellowstone County make up 30-35% of Laurel EMS's calls. EMS services in rural Yellowstone County have historically been an obstacle for residents in many parts of the county.

The services offered by Laurel EMS are critical to our residents and continue to be valuable to me as commissioner. I fully support the continuation of these services and recognize the significance of having reliable EMS services for our residents.

I strongly support this Community Project Funding request from Laurel EMS and urge you to consider their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris White", is written over a horizontal line.

Chris White, Member
Yellowstone County Commissioner

Yellowstone County



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March 3, 2026

The Honorable Troy Downing
U.S. House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Montana State University Billings' Community Project Funding

Representative Downing,

As a Yellowstone County Commissioner, I am writing to express strong support for Montana State University Billings' Community Project Funding request to expand workforce training capacity at City College through the purchase of an Advanced Process Control Training System.

City College at Montana State University Billings plays a vital role in preparing the skilled technical workforce that supports energy production, industrial operations, and public utility systems in Yellowstone County, and communities across eastern Montana. Employers in our region depend on graduates from the Process Plant Technology and Instrumentation and Electrical Technician programs to safely operate and maintain refineries, power generation facilities, pipelines, and municipal water and wastewater systems.

Reliable infrastructure and energy production are essential to the economic stability of our communities. Expanding hands-on technical training capacity will help ensure Montana businesses and public utilities continue to have access to a locally trained workforce prepared to meet industry and infrastructure needs.

I strongly support this Community Project Funding request from MSU Billings and appreciate your continued leadership in supporting workforce development and economic growth across Montana's Second Congressional District.

Sincerely,



Mark Morse, Chairman
Yellowstone County Commissioner