

October 12, 2016

Attention: Montana Legislatures

Regarding: Authorize Community Transformation
Local Option Authority Strategy Document

Dawson County Economic Development Council (DCEDC), Glendive, MT is in support of endorsing legislation allowing the residents of Dawson County to individually vote on choosing to implement a Local Option Authority Tax.

We would endorse Montana Legislators passage of legislation which will allow local residents to vote on a Local Option Authority Tax. The local option authority will allow communities the vote to fund the place-making and/or economic development initiative best suited to their wants and needs.

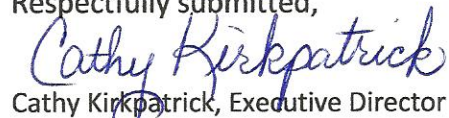
Dawson County and the City of Glendive are committed to improving infrastructure to enhance economic development, including business development and expansion.

A few of our greatest needs are extension of city water to West Glendive and Makoshika State Park in addition to a community center. With the addition of city water to these two locations our community has the increased opportunity to develop and grow. The residents of Dawson County have expressed interest in a community center which would be a great use of funds.

According to the University of Montana Institute of Tourism Recreation and Research, Dawson County would have received \$123,900 from nonresident alone in 2014, (assuming a 3% local option tax on the categories of Restaurant, Retail, Rental Cabin and Campgrounds).

DCEDC understands each county has their own specific needs. Prior to a policy being drafted for public vote Dawson County has a lot to consider; West Glendive and Glendive. How do we create a rural option authorization district to include all businesses within Glendive and West Glendive?

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy Kirkpatrick, Executive Director
Dawson County Economic Development Council