OVERALL PERCEPTION OF SESSION

• Because funding was tight, the session was a defensive one in many respects.

• Hot button items included budget, infrastructure, tax increment financing, Colstrip, and education.

• Overall, we had positive results from the session. While we had some disappointments (infrastructure bonding), we did make significant progress.

• 1188 bills were introduced.
MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

• 2019 Programs

• Other Key Economic Development Programs

• Infrastructure Funding

• Tax Increment Financing

• Workforce Training
## 2019 PROGRAM FUNDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Now/yr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Commercialization</td>
<td>$1,275,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRDC</td>
<td>$425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBDC</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBIR/STTR</td>
<td>$425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth through Ag</td>
<td>$625,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMEC*</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,475,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER PROGRAM FUNDING OF INTEREST

• Primary Sector Workforce Training
  • $600,000/yr.

• Food & Ag Centers
  • $300,000/yr.

• Indian Country Economic Development (ICE)
  • $800,000/yr.

• Native American Language Preservation
  • $500,000/yr.

• Native American Gap Financing
  • $500,000/yr.

• Montana Cooperative Development Centers
  • $65,000/yr.
2019 PROGRAMS

• Our suite of programs are authorized for this biennium.

• The 2019 session will be critical as all of the programs will terminate if funding is not secured.

• We need to begin the communication efforts now.
INFRASTRUCTURE

• HB 473 was a key piece of legislation.

• The Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Act creates jobs, improves public safety, and provides a match for federal dollars. The bill also provides some local dollars.

• The Montana Infrastructure Coalition made a definite impact. While not successful in regard to the bonding effort, we set the stage for future discussion.

• Also unsuccessfully tried to bring forward the opportunity for a local option infrastructure tax.
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

- This was a hot button item this session.
- 16 bills introduced
  - 12 Dead - Great Job!!!
  - 4 Passed – Minor improvements to allow for consistency across the State. (HB 30, HB 76, HB 396 & SB 27).
- HJ 18 – Interim Study of TIF’s and TEDD’s
**TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (CONT.)**

- **HJ 18**
  - Legislative audit of districts during 2017
  - Interim committee will look at audit results, administrative costs, public/private investments, the definition of blight, the inclusion of purely public projects that do not result in a tax base increase, districts that allow for façade improvement and historical preservation considerations, etc.
  - Presentation of findings on or before September 15, 2018.
  - *We need to be part of this discussion!!!*
WORKFORCE TRAINING

• Primary Worker Training

• Incumbent Worker Training (HB 88)

• Tribal Workforce Training

• Montana’s rising workforce will benefit from the ten-year renewal of the 6-mill levy for the Montana University System, a tuition waiver program, and dual enrollment at community colleges
OTHER ITEMS

• Colstrip
  • HB 209 – Extend funding for Coal Board ($1.6 million/yr.)
  • HB 22 - $ for DOJ to assist, intervene, plan for closure of coal fired generation facilities.
  • SB 140 – Low interest coal tax trust fund loans to certain local governments.
  • SB 339 – Establish the coal fired generating unit remediation act
OTHER ITEMS

- Taxes
  - HB 226 – Allow increase property tax abatement for new or expanding industry
  - HB 308 – Apprenticeship tax credit with increased amount for veterans.
- Local Option Infrastructure tax failed
- SB 359 – Property tax incentives for qualified datacenters
OTHER LEGISLATION

• TSEP – House Bill 11
  • $15.925 million for water & wastewater projects
  • $3.7 million for bridges from TSEP Fund interest

• Indian Country Tourism – Senate Bill 309

• Expanding Broadband Grants – House Bill 390
  • $1 million/year

• Office of Outdoor Recreation
  • $200,000/year
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT & INVOLVEMENT!!!