

October 22, 2012

Ms. Patty Nordlund
Community Development Manager
Big Sky Economic Development
222 N. 32nd Street, Suite 200
Billings, MT 59101-1948

Dear Ms. Nordlund:

The Billings City Council today voted to approve a letter of commitment for the FY2013 EPA Brownfields Assessment Program Grant. The grant is critical to continue to assess properties in the East Billings Urban Renewal District (EBURD) in order to remove barriers for redevelopment and to ensure that properties are conducive to protecting human health and environment. The City of Billings is committed to infill development and the implementation of mixed use zoning. Recently the city has implemented both a hybrid EBURD Zoning Code and an Infill Development Policy. The City has also adopted and is implementing a Complete Streets Policy.

With two city staff members serving as members of the HUD-DOT-EPA partnership group for the last two years, the City of Billings has partnered with Big Sky Economic Development (BSED) and nearly thirty other community based organizations on numerous efforts. The HUD-DOT-EPA partnership embraces the livability principles and has worked hard to develop goals and planned outcomes that anchor the livability principles in all of our development efforts.

I am confident that BSED has the expertise and the resources to successfully accomplish the assessment activities, as the organization has successfully carried out its first EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant, completing assessments on 23 parcels in the EBURD.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Hanel, Mayor