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Montana Contractors' Association Newsletter

May 20, 2011



Governor Signs Business Equipment Tax Reduction

Governor Schweitzer deserves kudos for signing into law SB 372 (Tutvedt R-Kalispell), that reduces business equipment taxes from 3 percent to 2 percent on the first \$2 million in market value of equipment, or to 1.5 percent on the first \$3 million in value. For any amount more than \$3 million, the current 3 percent rate applies. This comes as somewhat of a surprise after his staff opposed the bill when it was heard in committee in both houses, but we congratulate him for helping contractors with this bit of tax relief. He also signed HB 43 (MacLaren, R-Victor), which is an important MCA-backed bill clarifying the rights of employers relative to employees' use of medical marijuana.

In another positive move, the Governor vetoed HB 604, which allowed the State Fund to add a 2.75 percent assessment to work comp policies to pay off the "Old Fund Liability." We've been critical of the Governor vetoing bills we supported, but we should give credit where credit is due and acknowledge that he helped contractors with some important bills this past week. We will be issuing a Legislative Report Card in the next several weeks listing all the bills of



Quick Links

[MCA Newsletter](#)

[MCA Training Page](#)

[MCA Website](#)

Calendar

May 21

Concrete Division Scholarship Due

[Application](#)

May 23

FHWA Safety Edge Webinar

[Registration](#)

May 24-25

Advanced Storm Water Class

Bozeman

[Registration](#)

May 26

MDT Bid-letting

Helena, 9:00 am

May 24

Opencut Permit Training

Missoula

importance to the MCA and how legislators voted. Watch for it!

MCA Members Again Make ENR Top 400 List

Barnard Construction, Sletten Companies and visiting member BN Builders were recently listed among the top 400 construction firms in the U.S. by revenue. Congratulations to our members that are in the "big league."

FHWA To Host Safety Edge Construction Webinar

The Federal Highway Administration is offering a webinar to share lessons learned construction of more than 10 demonstration projects. Highlights include construction techniques, hardware improvements, testing results and answers to the most frequently asked questions. Dates and links are in the Calendar sidebar to the right.

Summer Outing Registration Open!

The MCA Summer Outing will be held in Great Falls, August 10-12. A new [online registration form](#) is available on the MCA website. The online format is very intuitive and easy to use - we'd love to get your feedback on it! In addition, a brochure and registration form will be included in the June newsletter. Looking forward to golf, shooting and socializing in Great Falls!

Member Breakfast Slated for June 15 in Billings

The "Breakfast With the Board" in Missoula was a very successful outing, and the Board of Directors extends an invitation for members to attend a breakfast meeting in Billings. Dan Carter, Director of University and Government Relations for MSU-Billings, will provide insight on the bonding bill and the university construction vision for the future. The date is June 15,

[Registration/Information](#)

June 1

FHWA Safety Edge Webinar
[Registration](#)

June 6

FHWA Safety Edge Webinar
[Registration](#)

June 6-7

NCCER Instructor Certification
Helena
Call the MCA 442-4162

June 9

Opencut Permit Training
Helena
[Registration/Information](#)

June 15

Breakfast With The Board
Billings

June 21-22

Advanced Storm Water Class
Kalispell
[Registration](#)

Quote of the Week

"The ability to concentrate and use time well is everything."
- Lee Iacocca

Header Info

Thanks to Fisher Industries for the photo of work being done on the Lower Yellowstone Diversion Dam project at Intake, MT.

Have a great photo of your project? E-mail it to keith@mtagc.org and we'll put it on the E-brief!

and it will be held at Hilands Golf Club, 714 Poly Drive in Billings. Please RSVP to [Maryann](#) so we can have an accurate count.

Open Shop Merit Wage Survey

If you are running an open shop construction company, please take a few minutes to download this [survey](#). AGC sponsors the survey, and most chapters nationwide participate. It is completely confidential, and provides an overall benefit to the construction industry.

Baucus Instrumental to 3% Withholding Repeal

Beginning January 1, 2012, federal, state and local governments will **withhold 3% from each and every payment to contractors** for goods and services - and this is for the entire project cost, not just the profit or net income!

Senator Max Baucus, the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, will be instrumental in the implementation or repeal of this issue. The AGC is encouraging all members to write to him on this issue - but he is *our* senator, and we need to present a united front within Montana.

The AGC and the MCA strongly urge our members to contact their Senator Baucus to repeal this onerous tax burden. Feel free to use the [format](#) provided here as the basis for a letter or [e-mail](#) to Senator Baucus.

Our Mission

To help our member companies become the best construction firms in Montana.



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Montana Contractors Association | 1717 11th Avenue | Helena | MT | 59601