

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 28, 2010

Montana Contractors' Association
Attn: Cary Hegreberg, Executive Director
1717 11th Avenue
P.O. Box 4519
Helena, Montana 56904

Dear Mr. Hegreberg:

Thank you for your letter dated July 28, 2010 regarding federal contracting issues and the treatment of Montana firms in this process. As I have discussed numerous times with you, members of your association, and federal agency officials involved in the procurement process, addressing this issue is a top priority of mine.

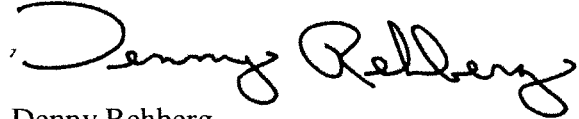
I don't have to tell you how angry I am that Montana firms are being passed over time and time again in favor of out-of-state companies that come in with higher bids. I have addressed this inequity numerous times with federal agencies, including bringing the General Services Administration (GSA) to my office to discuss their contracting process. I continue to voice my disapproval to the GSA that the winning bid on the construction of the Billings Courthouse was \$8 million dollars higher than the Montana-based company's bid. Unfortunately, as you mentioned in your letter, the Billings Courthouse was not an isolated incident. In this economic climate it's more important than ever to ensure American tax dollars are being spent in a manner that is targeted, timely, and most of all – transparent.

My staff is currently working with both your association and the Association of General Contractors (AGC) on action-items that can be implemented for Montana bids to be considered in a fair, open and competitive process. The specific suggestions and two-step process laid out in your letter are extremely helpful and will certainly be a part of our plan as we move forward.

I look forward to discussing these issues with you at MCA's Summer Meeting in Billings on August 12th. Please let me know if you would like to set up a time prior to the evening's events to sit down to discuss these matters in more detail.

In the meantime, I will continue to work with MCA and AGC staff, as well as your member companies, to ensure that Montana companies have the best opportunity possible to secure Montana jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denny Rehberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Denny Rehberg
Member of Congress