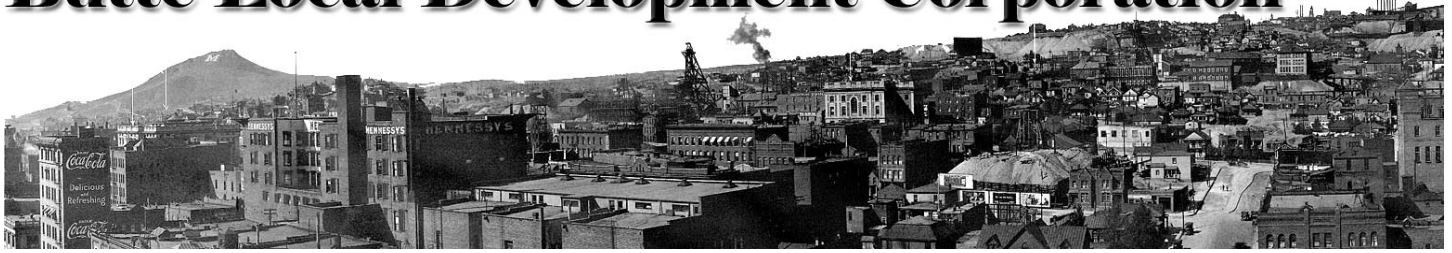


Butte Local Development Corporation



FALL 2009

Governor Schweitzer Visits German Company

In his first official trip overseas, with the exception of visiting troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, Governor Brian Schweitzer met with companies in Germany and Spain last week to build more business and economic activity in Montana, especially in the renewable energy sector of the economy. He was accompanied by Chief Business Development Officer Evan Barrett.

“It was a great opportunity to build and grow energy business in Montana and create more high paying jobs for workers in our state,” said Governor Brian Schweitzer.

While in Germany Governor Schweitzer met with Fuhrlander CEO Joachim Fuhrlander and Chafin LLC head Jon Chafin and inspected the new Fuhrlander plant which produces the 2.5 MW wind turbines that would be

the product produced in Montana for US markets. They also observed several Fuhrlander 2.5 MW wind turbines fully installed and producing renewable energy.

According to Governor Schweitzer, “the meetings were very positive and set the stage for further discussions to tie down the Montana opportunity.”

Joachim Fuhrlander said, “We were honored by the Governor’s visit and I will personally be coming with a team to Montana in the very near future to continue discussions with the Governor, other state officials and local officials to advance the plans to locate an assembly plant in Montana.”

Montana has increased wind energy generation from 1MW in 2004 to 271.5 MW today, the fastest growth rate in the nation. Studies on wind potential,

including a recent study by Howard University, consistently place Montana as one of the top states in the nation for overall wind energy development potential.

“Renewable energy provides the opportunity for jobs, economic growth and tax base enhancement all across Montana,” said Governor Schweitzer.

“Many of the strong companies in renewable resource development are found in Europe and many of those companies are working with Montana to achieve this growth. We want to make sure they understand the state can be a partner in progress with them to advance this important agenda.”

“We greatly appreciate the Governor taking time to personally visit with the management team of the Chafin/Fuhrlander project in Germany. We look forward to

meeting with their team when they come back to Butte. It is our goal to finalize the financial package, infrastructure requirements, workforce training and hiring plans and project timelines, so the project can move forward,” Jim Smitham, Executive Director of the BLDC said in response to the report on Governor Schweitzer’s visit to Germany.

**BLDC Annual
Dinner and
Meeting**

**November 19,
2009**

6 pm

War Bonnet Inn

**Please call
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Reservations.**



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Expanded Business Survey Update

In June there was an article in the BLDC Newsletter describing an upcoming business survey. This survey has been delayed somewhat because we are expanding its scope.

Most everyone who lives in southwest Montana realizes that the economic factors that affect Butte usually have a similar influence on the economies in Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Whitehall and other surrounding communities. Therefore, we felt it was very important to obtain the same information from businesses in all of our neighboring communities.

As we previously indicated the information being requested will include the company's contact information, general business data including the products and services they sell, and if they may be interested in increasing their sales or purchases between other local

businesses or governmental entities. The information gathered will be very useful in helping to determine the types of products and services that are available in the area and the diversity of our regional economy. It will also help identify the new business opportunities locally for products that are now being purchased from outside our community, region, or state.

The BLDC, Butte-Silver Bow and the Chamber of Commerce have long been strong advocates of buying locally and regionally. The Business Survey is the first step in helping to keep our local dollars working close to home. The goal of this effort is to institute a Business-to-Business purchasing program which would provide local companies with the tools to easily determine if the goods or services they are seeking are available through a neighboring entity along with

the information on how to contact them. Hopefully the end result would be a local business transaction.

Soon you will receive a postcard that invites you to participate in the business survey. You will have two ways to participate; you can request a copy be mailed to you that can be faxed back, or you can utilize an on-line form at a new website www.swmtbiz.org. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and the information you furnish will be confidential. We hope that you participate in this survey and help strengthen our local economy.