

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

IMAN 

CHILCOTT 

FOSS 

KANENWISHER 

STOLTZ 

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Members Present.....Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Matt Kanenwisher and Commissioner Ron Stoltz

Date.....March 31, 2011

- ▶ Minutes: Beth Perkins
- ▶ Commissioner Chilcott attended a Transportation Research Board meeting in Newport Beach, CA for the day.
- ▶ Commissioner Iman attended MSHA training at the Road & Bridge Department for the day.
- ▶ The Board met for a presentation by Trapper Creek Job Corps. at 10:00 a.m. Present was Dale Huhtanen.

Dale gave a background of the Trapper Creek Job Corps program. The House Republicans, specifically Representative Denny Rehberg, recommended dramatic funding cuts to Job Corps. If these cuts are passed, it could result in the closure of Anaconda, Kicking Horse or Trapper Creek Job Corps Centers and the loss of nearly 700 Montana jobs. He requested the support of the Board and to contact Rep. Rehberg in opposition of these cuts by April 4th. Dale discussed the biggest issue with the program other than the proposed cuts is transportation.

William Clark, president of Victor Youth Athletics, was told a few years that they could not utilize the Trapper Creek Job Corps for projects. Dale asked William if Victor Youth was a non-profit. William replied yes. Dale recommended William contact Trapper Creek to get on a schedule for projects.

- ▶ Discussion and possible decision on BR Humane Society funding need for audit at 10:30 a.m. Present was Jeanne McKinney.

Commissioner Foss reviewed concerns of BRHA such as not being equipped to handle large animals (horses). Another concern is BRHA is the claim that animals being picked up have been spayed or neutered, hidden in the kitchen area to avoid going back to the owner, and on some occasions, euthanized. There are many issues from a liability point of view. She stated the immediate problem is county funds are going to BRHA without an audit. Commissioner Stoltz stated the BRHA is supposed to provide the County with an audit and have not. In his opinion, they have violated the agreement.

Jeanne stated her concern is the way the shelter is being run. She realizes there aren't any laws or guidelines for procedure. The meetings go into closed session and the secretiveness increases per meeting. It had been discussed to provide the County with numbers of animals in care however, those numbers were never provided. Commissioner Foss expressed her concern with the lack of open board meetings since the County is providing funds. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated they are a non-profit 501(3) C and can be reported to the State if mismanagement is suspected. ► Commissioner Iman joined the meeting at this time.

Jeanne stated BRHA has now stated they will have an audit but it is not an actual audit, it is a financial review by Galusha, Higgins and Galusha. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated there are some issues due to the Animal Control Officer and county funds. If there are problems there, they need to be investigated. Commissioner Foss encouraged Jeanne to file a complaint with the State for the facility. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated the Board can request an actual audit. Commissioner Iman stated an audit is only good for one year and it will cost much more than \$3,500. The Board can state within the agreement animals received under the portion of the County funds can have a contract term such as they cannot be euthanized for three weeks and a standard level of care. He is not against a financial review if the County can put certain conditions under the review such as certain criteria. Commissioner Foss asked if conditions could be put on the funds they are receiving from the County. Commissioner Iman replied yes. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated the opportunity is if BRHA is going to request funding for upcoming fiscal year, there are certain conditions that will have to be met or no funding will be granted. Discussion followed regarding updating the agreement. Commissioner Iman stated questions need to be asked such as what does this Board want from BRHA, do conditions on animals through ACO, and notify that in the future considering different types of animals at other facilities. Also, to request advice from CFO Klarryse Murphy if the Board should request an audit or financial review of BRHA. He suggested having this completed by May 15th. The Board concurred.

► The Board met to open bids for the Audio System at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Iman read the legal notice posted and stated two bids were received as follows:

Acoustic Vision: Audio base for \$7,450; upgrades were broken down separately.

TRC Solutions: Audio base for \$6,538; Option 2 is \$5,775; and hearing assistance is \$1,277.

Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to have I.T. review the bids and bring forth to the Commissioners with recommendation. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

► Commissioner Foss attended a trapper Creek Community Relations Council meeting at 4:00 p.m.

**** Oppose Job Corps Funding Cuts ******CONTACT REP. REHBERG NO LATER THAN APRIL 4!****Overview / Talking Points**

House Republicans and the chair of the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee Representative Dennis Rehberg (MT) have recommended dramatic funding cuts to Job Corps. If their proposals were to be enacted, the result could be the closure of the Anaconda, Kicking Horse or Trapper Creek Job Corps Centers and the loss of nearly 700 Montana jobs. On April 5th, Chairman Rehberg will hold his second congressional hearing to discuss the Committee's funding priorities for FY 2011 and FY2012. At his last hearing, Chairman Rehberg was very critical of Job Corps.

Therefore, **MONTANA MUST WEIGH-IN PRIOR TO MONDAY, APRIL 4TH. PLEASE:**

1. Call and/or e-mail Representative Dennis Rehberg at (202) 225-3211 and Senator Jon Tester at (202) 224-2644
 - a. Ask for either Jay Martin (jay.martin@mail.house.gov) or Kristin Smith (kristin.smith@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Rehberg's office OR
 - b. Mark Jette (mark.jette@tester.senate.gov) or Christine Roberts (christine_roberts@tester.senate.gov) in Senator Tester's office
2. E-mail House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee staffer Kevin Jones at kevin.jones@mail.house.gov, Kevin is responsible for writing the Committee's funding legislation
3. Reiterate your support for Job Corps
4. Stand in opposition of funding cuts to Job Corps

Below you will find suggested talking points. We also encourage you to personalize these talking points with specific information on why you support Job Corps. For example, are you an employer that relies on Job Corps for a steady pipeline of ready-to-work employees? Or, are you a community organization that relies on Job Corps to conduct local service projects?

- In Montana we are proud to have 3 Job Corps centers! These 3 facilities generate about \$50 million in local economic activity and support nearly 700 Montana jobs in counties that have unemployment rates as high as 13.4%.
- Each year, the 3 Job Corps centers provide career technical training and job placement services to over 1,000 of Montana's economically disadvantaged youth who might otherwise cost Montana millions of dollars in lost taxable earnings and Medicaid payments.
- According to a recent study by the Foundation for Educational Choice, Montana high school dropouts work close to eight fewer weeks per year than those whose highest degree is a high school diploma or GED. Almost 30% of high school dropouts in the state meet the federal definition of low-income, which is twice the rate of high school graduates.
- At the *{Job Corps Center You Work With}*, hundreds of out-of-school, out-of-work economically disadvantaged youth earn their high school diploma or GED and the skills they need to find and keep a job. In fact, *{Ask Your Center the Job Placement Percentage}* obtain a job, go on to higher education or enlist in the military.
- I also understand the challenges and difficult budget choices Congress must make, but I strongly urge you to reconsider Job Corps budget cuts.
- The 3 Montana Job Corps centers not only invest in our youth, but are also smart investments for our state and the local economies of Anaconda, Darby and Ronan.
- I know that Representative Rehberg in the past has said *"I am a tremendous advocate [of Job Corps], and don't want to see anything done to Job Corps."*
- Montana's young constituency and taxpayers cannot afford for you to give up on Job Corps now. Job Corps is an investment in our future and is a proven solution that contributes to job creation and priorities critical job training to deserving Montana youth.

{DATE}

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg
U.S. House of Representatives
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg:

In these difficult economic times, it is my privilege to update you on the socio-economic impact on Job Corps in Montana. The three Montana Job Corps centers contribute not only to the local economies of Anaconda, Darby and Ronan but to the entire state of Montana.

Each year the Montana Job Corps centers, including the Anaconda and Trapper Creek facilities operated by our U.S. Forest Service colleagues, receive \$24.5 million from the federal government to provide comprehensive career technical training and academic remediation to economically disadvantaged youth in our communities. Studies have shown that each dollar invested in Job Corps stimulates an additional \$1.91 in economic activity and for every million dollars spent, 24 jobs are directly and indirectly created. That means that the federal investment in Montana's Job Corps centers results in:

- \$47 million in annual economic activity in Montana; and
- The creation of nearly 700 local jobs in Montana annually.

Job Corps' return on investment goes beyond providing America's youth with everything they need to start a career or move on to higher education. As declining revenues force state and local budgets cuts, Job Corps students are stepping up in service to their communities through community service projects. In 2010 the Trapper Creek Center provided ~~\$85,000~~ in USFS projects and ~~\$24,000~~ in non USFS projects for our communities. ^{164,000} _{84,000}

Most importantly, Job Corps works. Through Job Corps, high school dropouts who might otherwise cost Montana millions of dollars in state services such as Medicaid over their lifetime, instead complete their education, transition to careers and contribute to state revenues. At a time when Montana's unemployment rate is 7.2 percent, 83 percent of Job Corps graduates successfully transition into a career or higher education. This is large part because Job Corps works closely with employers in Montana like Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital, Ravalli Head Start, Ravalli County Fairgrounds, City of Hamilton Parks and Recreation, Valley View Estates, Darby Schools, and many others to customize our career technical training and to meet the needs of our employer partners.

I invite you to accept the written invitation from the Montana Centers that was sent on March 2, 2011, and visit one of Montana's Job Corps centers in the near future to see firsthand all that Job Corps offers our communities and the students.

Sincerely,

COPY

2441 Old Darby Road
Hamilton, MT 59840
February 18, 2011

Honorable Representative Denny Rehberg
2448 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Representative Rehberg:

As chairperson of the Trapper Creek Community Relations Council (TCCRC) I am very concerned with the proposed house cuts (HR 1) of \$300 million for FY2011 to the Jobs Corps Program. I am worried and upset about the impact this shortfall will have on the national program and our three local centers in Montana. A cut this large could lead to the elimination of 25 or more Job Corps centers.

With all the challenges facing congress during budgetary times, it is important to maintain a strong commitment to successful programs that are important to the economic health and security of our nation. Job Corps, both at the local and national level, has maintained an excellent track record in performance and is an affirmation to our nations' compassionate commitment to assist disadvantaged youth. Also, this drastic cut to this program will affect our national and local economies with decreases in jobs and job training. Thus, this cut goes against the fact that congress is concerned about the economy and the increase in jobs for the unemployed.

Nationally Job Corps serves 70,000 +/- disadvantaged youth each year; has a record of over 80% of the graduates obtaining jobs; provides skilled workers into the labor force; and its students provide many thousands of hours of community service. Past statistics show that the income taxes paid by a Job Corps graduate will return about 1.5 times the cost of the program!

This \$300 million budget cut will lead to a serious impact on our local center's (Trapper Creek Job Corps Conservation Center) ability to hire and retain quality and dedicated staff who work with the students in present and future programs. Under our present budget we cannot afford to offer or increase the programs necessary for female students. Every time we attempt to start or increase our programs for the female students we are informed that there are no funds. And yet one of the proposed programs (Nurse Aide/Practical Nursing) is a necessary public service that presently does not have enough trained workers.

Some quick facts regarding Job Corps and our local center:

- 228 local jobs are directly or indirectly supported by the average Job Corps center each year.
- \$1.91 in local economic activity is generated by each dollar invested in Job Corps.
- Each high school dropout costs the American taxpayer \$469,200 over his/her lifetime.
- Over 80% of Job Corps graduates are employed, enlisted in the military or enrolled in higher education within 6 months from leaving the Job Corps.
- Majority of the youth earn a high school diploma or GED.
- TCJCCC serves 224 youth, has 64 employees; and offers technological training in 9 career areas.
- In 2010 the center used ~~\$84,760~~ ^(42,000) for USFS projects and ~~\$24,195~~ ^{84,760} for non USFS projects.
- Over \$4million was spent in local communities.

I thank you for your time and hope you will continue to support and advocate for the Montana centers and the Job Corps Program as a whole. Our local facility is important to our community, the State of Montana, the nation, and to the students it serves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale E. Huhtanen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dale E Huhtanen
President TCCRC

NJCA FLASH

March 18, 2011

A publication of the National Job Corps Association

In this edition:

1. **House Labor-HHS Appropriations Chairman Attacks Job Corps**
2. **Senate Approves Temporary CR**
3. **NJCA Welcomes the United Brotherhood of Carpenters**

House Labor-HHS Appropriations Chairman Attacks Job Corps

On Wednesday, March 16, the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee held its annual hearing with **Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis** to discuss the President's fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget request. Midway through the hearing, the new chairman of the subcommittee, **Denny Rehberg (R-MT)**, attacked Job Corps' effectiveness and the federal government's investment in the program. Chairman Rehberg - in an adversarial tone - stated that the subcommittee and Congress has historically put a "rubber stamp" on Job Corps. Disagreeing with Democrats who earlier emphasized the program's success, Rehberg contended that Job Corps is "the most expensive cost-per-participant program in the department, if not the entire government" and cited an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) study that found the program's "costs exceed results."

Secretary Solis, and Job Corps' Democratic champions on the committee, principally **Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)**, vigorously defended the program and questioned Rehberg's statistics and assertions regarding Job Corps. Solis stated that Job Corps has "strong support from the Administration." DeLauro pointed out that Job Corps' return on investment is enormous, helping the country recover the \$470,000 that each high school dropout costs our economy and government. She also pointed out that an average-sized Job Corps center supports 228 local jobs which equals to approximately "600 jobs and an estimated \$47 million in local economic activity in Montana alone."

For a more detailed summary of the hearing please visit: <http://www.njcaweb.org/HouseFY12Hearing>

What does this mean for Job Corps? Rehberg's forceful and persistent attack on Job Corps does not bode well for the FY 2012 appropriations process that has yet to begin in the House, and which he will lead. In addition, the very public nature of this criticism is likely to catch the attention of other conservatives who are eager to attack government programs. Job Corps advocates should do everything possible to shore up the support of our members of Congress, particularly among House Republicans and our U.S. Senators.

Flash Quiz

Which Job Corps center has had several local policymakers including the City Council President, several other members of the City Council, and the County Sheriff write letters to their Senators and U.S Representatives expressing their support for Job Corps and opposition to the cuts proposed in H.R. 1 ?

Answer to the March 11 question: The **Fred G. Acosta Job Corps Center** was recently awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award, which is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, a group created by President George W. Bush to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers make to our nation. To read more about this prestigious award please visit www.presidentialserviceawards.gov.

3/17/11

HOUSE APPROPRIATORS SPAR OVER LABOR BUDGET: Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis defended her department's fiscal 2012 budget request before House appropriators Wednesday, where questions regarding proposed cuts to current spending also were raised.

Solis emphasized the department's work in evaluating and streamlining its programs in an effort to ensure cost-effectiveness at a time when congressional Republicans are pushing to cut federal spending. The president's budget proposes \$12.8 in discretionary funding, a 5 percent decrease from the \$13.6 provided in fiscal 2010. At a House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee hearing, Solis said the agency "takes the president's goal of deficit-reduction very seriously. We're working very hard to strike the right balance between reducing spending and making strategic

investments that will support American workers and businesses in our economy." Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., commended the administration's budget, "particularly in contrast with the approach adopted by the majority" in trying to cut spending for the current fiscal year. She expressed support for strengthening and fully funding workforce programs, citing statistics showing that participation has increased dramatically in recent years, from 3.4 million workers in 2008 to just over 8 million in 2010.

Solis Prepared Testimony | DeLauro Opening Statement

Solis called for a reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, which governs job training programs and has not had a major rewrite since 1998. She stressed that such an effort would allow Congress to gather information about possible improvements to job training and workforce initiatives. Solis also emphasized that the administration's fiscal 2012 budget proposal would allocate almost \$380 million in the departments of Labor and Education for a competitive "Workforce Innovation Fund." The program would be aimed at encouraging states and regions to compete for funds by demonstrating their commitment to transforming their workforce systems. Solis said the workforce innovation proposal is an example of where the administration made "tough choices in the budget," as its cost would be offset by cutting other funding streams under the Workforce Investment Act programs.

Subcommittee Chairman Denny Rehberg, R-Mont., highlighted several programs that he argued provide a poor return on taxpayer investment, including Job Corps. Obama's budget request includes \$1.7 billion for the Office of Job Corps, which runs training centers aimed at preparing disadvantaged youth for a successful transition into the workforce. Disagreeing with Democrats who emphasized the program's success, Rehberg contended the program has "been proven to be ineffective." He said the program costs \$38,000 per person and cited an OMB study that found that the program's costs exceed its benefits. "This is the most expensive cost-per-participant program in the department, if not the entire government," he said, adding that the program only serves four-tenths of one percent of school dropouts. The House GOP's fiscal 2011 continuing appropriations bill (HR 1) would cut funding for the program by \$300 million.

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