

April 2, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

The Billings Area Chamber of Commerce/CYB enjoys a close-working partnership with the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools. This relationship has spanned more than a decade. Through our collaborative partnership, we have worked together to create additional support and opportunities for our schools. Our ability to hire a qualified workforce as well as the ability to attract new businesses to Billings and enhance the overall quality of life in our community has been directly impacted by the Education Foundation.

In the past three years, we have seen our partnership with the Education Foundation grow considerably. For example, I served on the Foundation's 25th Anniversary Committee and the Foundation's director serves on the Billings Chamber's Education Task Force as well as our Education 2020 Committee. Each year, the Foundation organizes an opportunity for business and community leaders to spend a morning learning more about our public schools. This event, Educator for a Day, we have seen the number of participants grow from 50 in 2008 to 125 in 2013. The Foundation is the key organization in Billings to link our schools, businesses and community. The Foundation does this through sound management practices, energetic staff and board members, and effective communication.

The Billings Chamber of Commerce/CYB fully supports efforts to improve STEM curriculum in our schools. We know the value a strong school system brings to our community and the importance of students being prepared for the workforce. Billings is continuing to grow and part of this growth is attributed to the increased opportunities in the energy sector. To continue this pathway of growth and job employment, we need students educated and prepared to work in STEM fields. We believe this begins in elementary school and continues through college.

The Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools makes a difference for our students and community. I encourage you to support their grant request to create sustainable, effective STEM opportunities for our community's students.

Sincerely,



Bruce MacIntyre  
Director, Business Advocacy and Government Affairs



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A large logo for the Billings Chamber of Commerce. It features the word "it's" in a small, lowercase font above the word "BILLINGS" in a large, bold, uppercase font. The "i" in "BILLINGS" is stylized with a vertical line through it. Below "BILLINGS" is a horizontal line, and then the words "Billings Chamber of Commerce" and "Convention and Visitors Bureau" are written in a bold, sans-serif font.