



Economic Affairs Interim Committee

60th Montana Legislature

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BART CAMPBELL, Staff Attorney
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LISA JACKSON, Staff Attorney for HJR48
PAT MURDO, Staff for HJR48 & SJR13

<DRAFT> AGENDA Economic Affairs Interim Committee

February 7, 2008 9:00 a.m.
Heritage Hall, MSU Great Falls
2100 16th Avenue South
(all agenda times are approximate)

- 9:00 a.m. --Call to order
--Comments from the Chair and Vice-Chair on the Committee's choice of Great Falls for the EAIC meeting.
--approval of minutes from the November 8th meeting
- 9:15 **Value-Added Agriculture in the Golden Triangle**
A panel discussion relating to SJR 13, a study of value added agriculture, speaking to the issue in Montana generally, but with a special focus on initiatives and issues in the Golden Triangle. Topics will include farm-to market initiatives, large-scale value added agriculture, and public/private interactions.
- Panelists:
David Tweet, Anheuser-Busch
Mark Black, International Malting
David Oien, Timeless Seeds, Inc.
Randy Gilbertson, Pasta Montana
Sam Schmidt, Montana Milling, Inc.
- 11:15 Public comment
- 11:35 Agency comment
- 11:45 Instructions to staff, Pat Murdo, Legislative Staffer
- 12:00 p.m. Working lunch - Presentation:
Workforce Training Grants from a Community Perspective
Kim Thiel-Schaaf, Great Falls Economic Development Authority

- 12:45 Public comment
- 12:55 Agency comment:
- 1:05 Update on business survey, Andrew Geiger
Administrative rules review, Bart Campbell
- 1:15 Report from the Montana Capitol investment Board as required by 90-10-202, MCA
- 1:30 **Workers' Compensation in Montana**
An analysis of Workers' Compensation developments in state government, and findings from the Labor-Management Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation, as well as the administration of the Montana State Fund.
- Panelists:
- Jerry Keck**, the Division Administrator of the Employment Relations Division and Ex-Officio representative of the Labor-Management Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation, will provide information on safety issues, medical fees, medical studies relating to return to work time, and case closures and settlements.
- Lance Zanto**, Workers' Compensation Program Manager, and **Connie Welsh**, Administrator of the Health Care and Benefits Division, Department of Administration, will discuss recent efforts to reduce injury and return to work rates within state agencies and other efforts to reduce cost drivers to Workers' Compensation.
- Lanny Hubbard**, President and CEO of the Montana State Fund, will discuss the administration of Montana State Fund and operations within the agency .
- 3:15 Public comment
- 3:45 Instructions to staff, Andrew Geiger, Lead Staffer
- 3:55 Letter to the State Administration and Veteran's Affairs Interim Committee regarding monitoring of State fund, Chairman Mendenhall
- 4:00 Adjourn