STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Executive Order No. 23

EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) within the Department of Corrections provides a host of diverse work and training programs for eligible inmates; and

WHEREAS, these vocational and on-the-job training programs include a furniture manufacturing plant, upholstery program, print and sign shops, lanyard and bow-sight manufacturing operations, license plate factory, food factory, lumber-processing mill, sewing and embroidery program, dog-training program, auto mechanic course, hygiene kit assembly, agricultural endeavors, welding, accounting, machining, drafting and commercial driver license training; and

WHEREAS, MCE is responsible for offering innovative and practical training and educational opportunities to inmates at the Montana State Prison, the Montana Women's Prison and private and regional prisons located in Montana; and

WHEREAS, industry and vocational-education programs within these prisons not only help maintain security of the institutions but also help prepare inmates for their eventual release into communities by giving them valuable job skills, a work ethic, and a sense of self-esteem that will help them be productive, law-abiding citizens when released; and

WHEREAS, MCE represents a multimillion-dollar-a-year operation with 80 civilian employees and more than 400 inmate workers, and annual spending of almost $15 million; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to draw upon broad expertise from throughout Montana that will provide advice and guidance to MCE in its efforts to improve existing programs and add new programs to increase training, education and re-entry opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the term of the former Prison Ranch Advisory Council has expired.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the laws and the Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby create the Correctional Enterprises Advisory Council.

PURPOSE AND DUTIES

The Correctional Enterprises Advisory Council shall:

A. collect and analyze information on the effectiveness of existing MCE programs;

B. make recommendations to the Department of Corrections and the Governor on the development of new programs that offer inmates a wider array of training opportunities, including exploration of sustainable food production;

C. act as a forum in which representatives of private business, post-secondary education, organized labor, and private prison operators can offer ideas and recommendations regarding development of new programs;

D. review and analyze existing and future infrastructure needs of MCE programs, and make recommendations on how to meet those needs; and

E. report to the Governor the results of its work and the recommendations it develops.

COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

The Council shall consist of at least six members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall designate one of the members to serve as Chair. The names and addresses of the Council members will be submitted by separate letter to the Secretary of State and the Montana Department of Corrections.

The Council is attached to the Department of Corrections for administrative purposes.

COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL

Council members eligible for compensation under Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-122(5) shall be compensated in an amount to be determined by the Department head, not to exceed $50 for each day in which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in performance of Council duties. All members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-122(5).

DURATION

The council shall exist for two years from the effective date of this order. This order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the state of Montana this 18 day of October, 2007.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

Attest:

Brad Johnson by Susan Ames, deputy

BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State