



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MISSOULA COUNTY CLOSER TO FEDERAL APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Missoula, MT – Missoula County is one step closer to receiving a federal appropriation of \$771,000 to fund the construction of its Emergency Operations Center. Senators Tester and Baucus and their colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the Homeland Security Appropriations Act which contains funding to allow Missoula County to combine and upgrade its facilities for managing large scale emergencies.

County Commissioner Michele Landquist remarked that the funding will significantly enhance the County's ability to coordinate the multiple agencies involved in emergency response. "This is great news for Missoula County because it will allow us to improve public safety throughout the county, and we appreciate Senators Tester's and Baucus' efforts," Landquist said. "In these tough economic times, this investment comes at a critical time to complete this project and strengthen our emergency operations."

"The County has developed a new space needs plan to incorporate the Emergency Operations and Training Center into the Courthouse Annex, shaving millions of dollars off the original plan. This appropriation will allow the center to be completed much sooner than was originally scheduled," commented Dale Bickell, Missoula County's Chief Administrative Officer.

"This is an important, long-term investment in the safety of people and property across Missoula County," Senator Tester said. "The resources we invest in Montana's law enforcement officers and firefighters will go a long way in keeping folks who live in and visit Big Sky Country safe. This is smart funding that will ease the financial burden of hardworking folks in Missoula County."

Senator Baucus remarked, "This is a very worthwhile appropriation that will make Missoula stronger and safer. I'm proud of this funding because it exemplifies a very smart use of federal resources in the name of public safety and infrastructure improvement."

The bill must pass the full Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives before the funding can be signed into law.

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