

HOUSE BILL NO. 11

INTRODUCED BY J. FITZPATRICK

BY REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING GRANTS; AUTHORIZING GRANTS FROM THE MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PLACING CONDITIONS ON GRANTS AND FUNDS; APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITIES FOR REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM PROJECTS; PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation for Montana coal endowment program grants. (1)

There is appropriated \$20,287,391 from the Montana coal endowment special revenue account established in 17-5-703(3)(a) to the department of commerce for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, to finance Montana coal endowment program grants authorized by subsection (2).

(2) The following applicants and projects are authorized for grants and listed in the order of their priority:

Infrastructure Applicant (project type)	Grant Amount
1. Hysham, Town of (water)	\$750,000
2. Roundup, City of (wastewater)	\$750,000
3. Twin Bridges, Town of (water)	\$750,000
4. Harrison Water and Sewer District (wastewater)	\$750,000
5. Wolf Point, City of (wastewater)	\$625,000

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1	6.	Dutton, Town of (water)	\$750,000
2	7.	Alder County Water and Sewer District (wastewater)	\$750,000
3	8.	Shelby, City of (wastewater)	\$375,000
4	9.	Red Lodge, City of (wastewater)	\$500,000
5	10.	White Sulphur Springs, City of (water)	\$625,000
6	11.	South Wind Crosswinds Community	\$750,000
7		Water and Sewer District (water and wastewater)	
8	12.	Circle, Town of (water)	\$750,000
9	13.	Arlee/Lake County Water and Sewer (wastewater)	\$327,500
10	14.	Deer Lodge, City of (wastewater)	\$439,000
11	15.	Willow Creek Sewer District (wastewater)	\$750,000
12	16.	Hinsdale County Water and Sewer (water)	\$500,000
13	17.	Fairfield, Town of (water)	\$500,000
14	18.	Darby, Town of (wastewater)	\$750,000
15	19.	Joliet, Town of (wastewater)	\$625,000
16	20.	Ronan, City of (wastewater)	\$750,000
17	21.	Bigfork County Water and Sewer (water)	\$500,000
18	22.	Richey, Town of (water)	\$500,000
19	23.	Malta, City of (water)	\$500,000
20	24.	Big Timber, City of (water)	\$500,000
21	25.	St. Ignatius, Town of (wastewater)	\$750,000
22	26.	Ennis, Town of (water)	\$500,000
23	27.	Pinesdale, Town of (water)	\$750,000
24	28.	Basin County Water and/or Sewer (water)	\$500,000
25	29.	Martinsdale Water and Sewer District (water)	\$750,000
26	30.	Sun Prairie Village County Water and	\$500,000
27		Sewer District (water)	
28	31.	Judith Basin County for Geyser Water and	\$520,891

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1 Sewer District (wastewater)

2 32. Whitehall, Town of (water) \$750,000

3 33. Libby, City of (wastewater) \$500,000

4 (3) Funding for the projects in subsection (2) will be provided only as long as there are sufficient
5 funds available from the amount that was deposited into the Montana coal endowment special revenue account
6 during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025. Funding for the projects will be made available in the order that the
7 grant recipients satisfy the conditions described in [section 3(1)].

8 (4) There is appropriated \$3,544,750 from the Montana coal endowment special revenue account
9 established in 17-5-703(3)(a) to the department of commerce for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, to
10 finance Montana coal endowment program grants authorized by subsection (5) as projects meet the conditions
11 provided in [section 3(1)].

12 (5) The following applicants and projects are authorized for grants and listed in the order of their
13 priority:

14	Bridge Applicant	Grant Amount
15	1. Lewis and Clark County	\$750,000
16	2. Madison County	\$750,000
17	3. Petroleum County	\$627,900
18	4. Park County	\$612,750
19	5. Powder River County	\$363,600
20	6. Wibaux County	\$440,500
21	<u>7. Missoula County</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>

22 Styler Creek West Bridge

23 (6) Funding for projects 1 through ~~6~~7 in subsection (5) will be provided only as long as there are
24 sufficient funds available from the amount that was deposited into the Montana coal endowment special
25 revenue account during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025. Funding for the projects will be made available in
26 the order that the grant recipients satisfy the conditions described in [section 3(1)].

27 (7) If sufficient funds are available, this section constitutes a valid obligation of funds to the grant
28 recipients listed in subsections (2) and (5) for the purpose of encumbering the funds in the Montana coal

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1 endowment special revenue account for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, pursuant to 17-7-302. However,
2 a grant recipient's entitlement to receive funds is dependent on the grant recipient's compliance with the
3 conditions described in [section 3(1)] and on the availability of funds.

4 (8) Any project listed in subsections (2) and (5) that has not completed the conditions described in
5 [section 3(1)] by September 1, 2026, must be reviewed by the next regular legislature to determine if the
6 authorized grant should be withdrawn.

7 (9) The funds appropriated in this section must be used by the department to make grants to the
8 government entities listed in subsections (2) and (5) for the described purposes and in amounts not to exceed
9 the amounts set out in subsections (2) and (5). The grants authorized in this section are subject to the
10 conditions set forth in [section 3(1)] and described in the Montana coal endowment program 2027 biennium
11 project funding recommendations to the 69th legislature. The legislature, pursuant to 90-6-710, authorizes the
12 grants for the projects listed in subsections (2) and (5). The department shall commit funds to projects listed in
13 subsections (2) and (5), up to the amounts authorized except as provided in subsection (3), based on the
14 manner of disbursement set forth in [section 3] until the funds deposited into the Montana coal endowment
15 special revenue account during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, are fully expended.

16 (10) If grant recipients do not complete all of the conditions described in [section 3(1)] by September
17 30, 2028, any obligation to the grant recipient will cease.

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19 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Approval of grants -- completion of biennial appropriation.** (1) The
20 legislature, pursuant to 90-6-701, authorizes grants for the projects identified in [section 1(2) and (5)], the
21 emergency infrastructure grants in [section 5], and the infrastructure planning grants in [section 6].

22 (2) The authorization of these grants completes a biennial appropriation from the Montana coal
23 endowment special revenue account established in 17-5-703(3)(a).

24 (3) Grants to entities from prior bienniums are reauthorized for completion of contract work.
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26 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Condition of grants -- disbursement of funds.** (1) The disbursement of
27 grant funds for the projects specified in [section 1(2) and (5)] is subject to completion of the following conditions:

28 (a) The grant recipient shall document that other matching funds required for completion of the