

United States Senate

October 27, 2015

Kirk Keysor
Economic Development Representative
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Economic Development Administration
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 431
Denver, Colorado 80204

Dear Mr. Keysor,

I am writing on behalf of the Economic Development Administration, FDAN 11.300, Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program, Funding Opportunity Number – EDAP2015, grant application submitted by Miles Community College (MCC).

MCC has identified a need to expand its Commercial Driver's License/Heavy Equipment Operators (CDL/HEO) program to meet the needs of a growing Heavy Equipment occupation group. MCC anticipates that there will be a 30% increase in the number of jobs in the Heavy Equipment occupation group, and offers that currently there are many unfilled job positions. Expansion of MCC's CDL/HEO program will enhance the limited number of programs providing this education, and bring a new level of training to students who wish to enter this occupation group.

MCC is acquiring new space to house training facilities for CDL and HEO education. If funded, MCC will proceed with the required renovations to the new facility to include classrooms and simulator labs, as well as American with Disabilities Act upgrades.

The proposed program is an important step toward providing the skills necessary to fill well-paid, high quality jobs. I commend MCC's efforts to provide a program that produces the workforce that can fill these jobs, benefitting Montana's economy.

I trust you will give this grant proposal fair and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator