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State of Montana
Office of the Governor



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Executive Order No. 5-96

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EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE MONTANA LOW
INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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WHEREAS, affordable energy is an integral part of basic shelter; and

WHEREAS, many low-income Montanans, including the elderly, have extreme difficulty in affording basic shelter and energy costs without assistance from other sources; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for energy assistance and weatherization has decreased dramatically since the mid-1980's, and is expected to be phased out or significantly cut as part of overall deficit reduction; and

WHEREAS, current nonfederal resources (utilities, charitable organizations, individual donors) are having difficulty making up the shortfall between low-income energy needs and dwindling federal resources; and

WHEREAS, advocacy and fundraising through a joint public-private partnership is needed to ensure affordable shelter and energy costs for low-income Montanans.

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARC RACICOT, Governor of the State of
2 Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws of
3 the State of Montana, do hereby create the Low Income Energy
4 Advisory Council ("Council").

5
6 I. PURPOSE

7 The Council shall advise the Department of Public Health
8 and Human Services and the Governor's Office on issues
9 affecting low-income energy assistance in Montana, including:

- 10 A. identifying the scope of the current need for low-
11 income energy assistance in Montana;
- 12 B. reviewing the status of Montana's current public
13 and private programs to provide energy assistance
14 to low-income people;
- 15 C. recommending a plan for meeting Montana's need for
16 low-income energy assistance and weatherization to
17 assure that both short-term and long-term energy
18 and shelter needs are addressed;
- 19 D. identifying resources needed to fulfill the plan
20 and develop, advocate and aid in implementing
21 strategies to secure the identified resources.

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23 II. COMPOSITION

24 The Council shall be comprised of fourteen members
25 appointed by the Governor. The names and addresses of the
26 members, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, are
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1 submitted by separate letter to the Secretary of State and the
2 Department of Public Health and Human Services. The make-up
3 of members shall include:

- 4 A. four members from public or private sector energy-
5 related enterprises;
- 6 B. three members from major private sector non-energy-
7 related enterprises;
- 8 C. one member from the Department of Public Health and
9 Human Services;
- 10 D. one member from the Department of Environmental
11 Quality;
- 12 E. two members from the general public;
- 13 F. one member who is a LIEAP recipient;
- 14 G. one member of the Montana State Legislature;
- 15 H. one member of the Montana Public Service Commission.

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17 III. ADMINISTRATION

18 The Council shall be attached to the Department of Public
19 Health and Human Services for administrative purposes. The
20 Council may, if deemed necessary, establish or designate a
21 separate organization for the purpose of accepting and
22 distributing funds received.

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24 IV. COMPENSATION

25 Council members eligible for compensation under Section
26 2-15-122(5), MCA, shall be compensated by the Department of
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1 Public Health and Human Services for each day actually and
2 necessarily engaged in the performance of Council duties. All
3 members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses, pursuant to
4 Section 2-15-122(5), MCA.

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6 V. DURATION


7 The Council shall exist for a period of two years from
8 the effective date of this Order unless extended by subsequent
9 Executive Order.

10 This Order is effective immediately.

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13 GIVEN under my hand and the
14 GREAT SEAL of the State of
15 Montana, this 13th day of
16 February 1996.

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20 MARC RACICOT, Governor

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18 ATTEST:

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21 MIKE COONEY, Secretary of State