



## **WEDA 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **WEDA Supports Governor's Recommendation and Strategy for Funding 2017-2018 Biennium Budget.**

- 1. Wyoming Business Council - Business Ready Community Program**
- 2. Funding for Local Government- Cities, Towns and Counties**

*Keep momentum and diversity growing in Wyoming's business communities.*

Economic Development in cities and towns across Wyoming plays a vital role in diversifying our economy. This is especially important considering the current downturn in energy revenues. The Wyoming Business Council continues to assist in the expansion of existing Wyoming business and to recruit new business seeking to locate in Wyoming.

*The 2017-2018 budget will continue momentum for economic growth in Wyoming.*

The Business Ready Communities program provides critically needed financing for publicly owned infrastructure that serves the needs of businesses and promotes economic development and diversity within Wyoming communities.

#### **1. Wyoming Business Council Business Ready Communities Program**

- ✓ Since 2004 the Business Ready Community (BRC) program has helped generate approximately 3,000 Wyoming jobs.
- ✓ Wyoming communities need the jobs that these companies will create.
- ✓ Governor Mead's recommended budget for the 2017-2018 biennium already reduces the BRC program budget by \$5.2 million, and lowers it back to 2011-2012 levels.

Wyoming's strength and character start at the local level. We must continue to make Wyoming communities livable, safe, and productive in order to expand existing as well as attract and grow new, innovative businesses.

#### **2. WEDA supports the Governor's recommendation to provide \$90 million to support Wyoming's Cities, Towns and Counties. Additionally we support an additional \$15 million for a total of \$105 million on the biennium.**

- ✓ \$105M in direct distributions for the upcoming biennium is the amount that was appropriated in the last biennium and keeps the cities, towns, and counties whole on operational funding.
- ✓ Infrastructure is a basic need of a community and future funding remains critical. Moreover, a downturned economy is an excellent climate for competitive pricing for infrastructure.
- ✓ Due to the current economic downturn, Local Government funding has already been reduced by approximately 50% (\$85 million) for the upcoming biennium

## **WEDA Supports the Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Committee Bill**

- ✓ SBIR represents an innovation development and recruitment tool to help grow new Wyoming businesses
- ✓ This is not a new appropriation.
- ✓ SBIR will make improvements to the existing Science Technology Energy Financial Aid (STEA) program at no additional cost.
- ✓ Funds will be used to match a portion of a federal award. This allows entrepreneurs greater ability to take their R&D to the next level.
- ✓ Proposals that come to the WBC will have already been vetted--and approved--by federal experts in that particular field.

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