## NEWS RELEASE GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK STATE OF MONTANA

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## Bullock Announces \$750,000 Grant to City of Choteau for Wastewater System Improvements

(HELENA) – Governor Steve Bullock and Montana Department of Commerce Director Meg O'Leary announced a grant of \$750,000 to be awarded to the City of Choteau through the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP).

"A strong infrastructure is an important part of building a stronger economy," said Bullock. "This grant will help the City of Choteau make critical improvements to its wastewater system, while at the same time bringing good-paying jobs to the community."

The project will include replacement of sewer collection mains and construction of a new treatment system including construction of storage ponds and sand drying beds. This project will correct treatment system permit violations and allow the City to meet ammonia limits.

"I'm pleased that our community has been selected to receive this grant," said Choteau Mayor Jack Conatser "It will allow us to make important upgrades to our infrastructure, which will not only serve our residents and businesses today, but will also prepare our community for future growth."

"The TSEP program creates a vital partnership between the State and local governments to deal with critical public health and safety needs," said Commerce Director Meg O'Leary. "It makes projects such as this one more affordable for our communities, creates good-paying jobs, and generates local revenue in the process."

The TSEP program is administered by the Community Development Division at the Montana Department of Commerce. The program is funded by interest earnings on the Coal Tax Severance Fund to help local governments, tribal governments, and local water and sewer districts complete public infrastructure improvements, creating jobs and protecting the health and safety of Montana's residents.

For more information regarding the TSEP program, please contact Community Development Division staff at (406) 841-2770 or e-mail <u>DOCTSEP@mt.gov</u>.