

**ETIC Meeting
November 8, 2007
Helena**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Haberman and I'm with Energy Share of Montana. You probably remember from the annual report we mailed you in September that we are a private nonprofit dedicated to helping Montanans facing energy emergencies. USB funding has been a huge help in having funds available for our clients, as you saw on our annual report.

The Energy Share Board has only one request regarding electric USB, and that is to eliminate the sunset date. Rates are still high; we still have too much poverty in Montana; and the need is not going to go away anytime soon.

- Food stamp recipients increased from 59,500 in 2000 to 81,567 in 2006
- 52% of Montana's food stamp recipients are working families
- Only 58% of families eligible for food stamps receive them
- Individuals assisted at food banks in Montana grew from 78,500 in 2004 to 214,000 in 2005. That's almost 3 times as many individuals in just one year - 12 months.
- 43% of people seeking free food baskets come from families with at least one member working
- There are over 90,000 homes in Montana at or below 150% of poverty, which is the income cut-off for LIEAP

In the last seven years with USB funds Energy Share has helped 11,500 families with over 3.5 million dollars in emergency assistance without any expenditure of state money. It's a lot easier and more efficient to eliminate the sunset than to figure out who's going to pay for the help if USB sunsets.

Thank you.

Attn: Energy
Share

To ~~keep~~

Thank you for all your help
I am Grateful I was worried
on how to keep my kids warm
for being a single mom and
trying everything for my kids
with little money I get, you
help me work on my spirit harder.
thank you from the bottom of
my heart.

Paula Gibson
Toston MT

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Energy Share.

November 3rd 07

I value your help. Thank you for both time that you helped me. I need help in the winter time when my heat almost got shut off. And now you have help me this time. Thank you for all of your help.

Linda Jones

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To whom it may concern
While Energy Share helped me
I was about to get my power turned
off I had just found out that the
reason I couldn't work was because
I have MS and a deteriorating spine
and I was having a hard time getting
any help but Energy Share was there
for me and they helped until I
got my SSI of an so glad that
they were there for me in my time
of need Energy Share is a lifesaver
for people in need and I thank
you all for being there for me

Thank You Very
Much
Robert Pedersen

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Nov 5, 2007

To whom it may concern:

I WAS, and still am, struggling to make ends meet. I was fired from my last job and was unable to pay all my bills.

Energy SHARE helped me to keep warm and have lights on while seeking another job which I started in mid-October.

I am very grateful to God and Energy Share for shining a light on me. I have a lot to be thankful for this coming Thanksgiving Day.

Sincerely,

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Bonnie Schoenborn
3375 Wylie Dr
Helena, MT 59602