

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

September 10, 2025

Montana Board of Investments
PO Box 200126
Helena, MT 59620-0126

Dear Members of the Montana Board of Investments,

Thank you for the brief pause you have placed on developing and constructing the behavioral health facility contemplated by House Bill 5, which the Legislature passed and I signed into law. At the most recent meeting of the Board of Investments (BOI), the Board requested written guidance from my office about how to best proceed with implementing House Bill 5 so that we can continue addressing the behavioral health challenges across our state.

As you know, House Bill 5 provided \$26.5 million to BOI to prepare and build a behavioral health facility in Eastern Montana in coordination with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) as an investment for the State. Under the law, the Legislature directed BOI and DPHHS to prepare a plan for facility type and location subject to approval by the Director of the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning.

Over the course of the last few months, this project has gained the attention of many in the public, both because of the great need for the proposed facility and because its location impacts their communities. In proceeding with this project, public participation should play a critical role as it moves forward. Engaging the public and stakeholders will ensure that these decisions are made in the open, allowing Montanans to have a voice in how their hard-earned tax dollars are spent.

As the Board moves expeditiously to resume implementation of House Bill 5, I encourage BOI to work closely with DPHHS during the development of the behavioral health facility plan to specify services to be provided at the facility and ensure that the public has an opportunity to be heard. While the building is to be constructed by BOI, it is important that DPHHS work closely alongside the Board so that the facility meets the behavioral health needs of Montanans. To ensure that all interested communities have the opportunity to provide feedback, I also encourage the Board to work with DPHHS to consider additional locations beyond the previously reviewed sites.

This project is of great importance to the State of Montana, as DPHHS must continue to build out capacity to take care of Montanans in need of behavioral health services. I share the goals of

the Legislature to complete this project quickly while also ensuring transparency, fairness, and public involvement.

Thank you to each member of the Board for their work on this important project. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor