

Resolution #2026-7

SUPPORT COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY NATURAL RESOURCES INDUSTRIES

BACKGROUND

Throughout our state the development of our natural resources has been a significant economic engine for all of Montana, providing support for schools, thousands of good paying jobs with benefits and a valuable source of tax revenue. Many of our smaller rural communities are threatened with an uncertain future with the decline of these natural resource industries.

For decades, many Montana communities have relied heavily on our state's valuable natural resources industries. Mining, timber, coal, oil, and gas have all provided billions of dollars in state and local taxes while also providing economic stability across all corners of our state. There is not a city in our state that has not benefited from the development of these natural resources and the partnerships that come from these industries. The fluctuation in these industry sectors – both growth and decline – can have serious consequences on the economic and social stability of our municipalities.

ACTION

While the League recognizes that each impacted community, industry, and local impact is different and may require a varied approach, the League supports efforts to create and maintain legislation, policies, and programs that provide financial support, economic diversification, and other resources to:

1. Help create sustainable employment opportunities and protect local revenues in Montana cities and towns impacted by the growth or decline of natural resource development.
2. Support partnerships that provide municipalities with resources that will address the critical infrastructure, public service and public safety needs associated with natural resource development impacts.