



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

General Counsel

JAN 17 2003

Vicky A. Koch, Chief
Civil Rights Bureau
Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Dear Ms. Koch:

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has reviewed the Unified Certification Program (UCP) you submitted to us on behalf of the Montana Department of Transportation and other recipients of DOT financial assistance in Montana. The certification component of your DBE program, which is made part of the UCP, successfully accommodated the comments that DOT staff had provided to you.

Consequently, I am pleased to approve the Montana UCP as provided by the Department's disadvantaged business enterprise regulations (49 CFR §26.81(a)(4)). Please remember that any inconsistency or ambiguity in the UCP agreement shall be resolved by giving precedence to the following in this order: 49 CFR 23 and 26, USDOT Directives, DBE Program as approved by DOT and applicable Montana regulations.

We look forward to working with you as you implement the UCP, which should significantly reduce burdens on small businesses seeking to participate in the DBE program in Montana.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk K. Van Tine".

Kirk K. Van Tine
General Counsel