



## **Funding Secured for the Montana Meth Project**

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**BILLINGS** An appropriations bill awaiting passage in the U.S. Senate includes a \$500,000 grant for the Montana Meth Project.

Montana Sens. Max Baucus and Jon Tester asked that the funds be included in the 2008 Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill that has cleared the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Billionaire and part-time Montana resident Tom Siebel founded the Meth Project in September 2005 and has contributed more than \$15 million to the effort. He recently challenged state and federal officials to help fund the program. The Montana Legislature recently approved a \$1 million grant for the project, requested by Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath.

Meth Project Chairman Mike Gulledge said the federal funding shows a commitment to the fight against methamphetamines.

“Our meth problem is not going to go away overnight, but we are already seeing solid results due to the Montana Meth Project’s innovative campaigns,” said Gulledge, publisher of The Billings Gazette. “These dollars show a federal commitment to keeping meth out of our schools and communities. We take our hats off to Max and Jon for securing these needed dollars.”

Siebel has also announced a \$5 million challenge grant that will match contributions from private entities. He praised the Montana senators for working to secure federal funds.

Peg Shea, the project’s executive director, said the campaign centered on harshly realistic television spots has been highly successful in Montana, and said that federal funding is critical to keeping the program going.

Gulledge said the project has produced more than 13 television spots, about 10 newspaper ads, and more than 15 radio spots detailing the dangers of meth use. The project also sponsored the Paint the State art contest, featuring more than 600 submissions; and has an intensive community outreach effort.