roylene gaul <gaul@cybernet1.com> 12/22/2002 02:47:59 PM

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To: David C. Childs A-76comments/OMB/EOP@EOP

cc: gaul@cybernet1.com Subject: A-76 comments

I would like to commment on the proposed A-76 proposals for outsourcing -- I believe in giving as much government business as possible to the private sector - but not when it will hurt and impact financially small western rural communitites.

You need to be aware that for every federal employee that works in a small community that has children in school that school system recieves a small stipend. Loss of Federal Employees and loss of this stipend to our Rural Montana schools which currently are under funded (one of the lowest states in the nation) can have a detrimental effect on education. The loss of just a few dollars has monumental impacts. In addition - Federal Employees are the only thing keeping many of our smaller rural Montana communities alive - loss of that guaranteed wage base and the economic's that it provides to the local community can be detrimental. Our local Forest Service Computer Support employees jobs have been outsourced to an IBM helpdesk located in an Eastern Metropolitan State - A PHONE CALL AWAY - Has a very negative financial impact on our local western communities -- these are communities already stressed from the closure of the lumber mills - I am a School Board Member in Victor, Montana - we already have 58% of our student population on Free and Reduced Lunches - with this Outsourcing of Federal Jobs - we are increasing our local poverty rate - Medicaid costs are already soaring - if OutSourcing could be arranged to keep the positions and funds locally - I would fully support it - but the way it is devised at the moment - you cannot save the taxpayer money - if you are simply shifting the burden of debt from one department to another - currently local federal employees pay taxes, support our communities, and keep our economic levels above poverty - with this loss many of our local communities will be in the 90% range of poverty level families. Thank you - Sincerely - Roylene Gaul - Victor School Board Member