

November 15, 2005

To: Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian
Montana State Library Commission

Fr: Christie Briggs, Supervisor
Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

Proposal: Commit Trust Fund monies in the amount of \$5,000. for an annual patron NFB-Newsline™ subscription, in partnership with the Montana Association for the Blind (MAB).

Background: As previously presented to the Commission, the attached NFB-Newsline™ information explains this service which is free to our patrons and very popular.

The MAB tested this service in 2002 through a one year grant in which MTBL partnered the administration of this service. The grant ran out but the patron requests continued. MAB sponsored the entire subscription fee in 2005 with a request for MTBL to partner again- this time both in administering and assisting MAB in funding as well as to find other funding partners. The total cost is \$20,560. annually.

Benefits have been realized by MTBL in 2005 through this service. There has been an increase in patrons. Patrons have been able to stay involved with current events through this service. An additional projected benefit is that this service, through its phone menu, has the potential to customize local information for patrons. As a funding sponsor and current administrator of this service, MTBL will be able to customize and offer information about our services, upcoming events, new books, and other valuable information in a more timely manner to patrons.

Closing: MAB's cost will be \$15,560. and our share is \$5,000. for 2006.
MAB will give \$3.00 to every \$1.00 MTBL contributes towards this annual NFB-Newsline™ subscription.

This is projected to be a long term partnership and commitment and should be reviewed at the end of calendar year 2006. Patrons have offered to contribute donations for this service, as well as some public libraries as well as other parties have shown an interest in becoming partners in providing this service to our patrons. All of these opportunities for funding are being pursued by MAB and MTBL.