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Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State

**Montana Meth Project Launches Paint the State 2010
Secretary of State Linda McCulloch's Remarks at Big Sky High School**

For too long, Meth has torn at the fabric of our communities. It has broken families, broken bodies and broken spirits. Unfortunately, Montana's young adults bear the brunt of its toll. At what should be the start of their lives, teens who think they'll try Meth "just once", quickly see their families destroyed and their futures tragically veered off course.

Thanks to the Montana Meth Project and to your participation in efforts like Paint the State, we have made incredible progress in reducing Meth use in Montana. Montana's success was fueled by the students at Big Sky High School, and by your friends across the state.

You have shared your opinions and reached out to your friends and families. You have been incredible ambassadors for the Montana Meth Project, and I thank you for that commitment.

Paint the State presents a unique opportunity, because it gives you an avenue to creatively express your feelings and views about Meth. As teens, you have the ability to create artwork that is relevant, credible and authentic. Your voice is powerful, and the images and messages that you create are powerful.

As an elected official, I spend a lot of time on Montana's roadways and I have always looked forward to seeing the various pieces of art that were created for Paint the State. It's comforting to pass an image that I've grown accustomed to seeing, and when I discover new artwork, I stop or slow down to check it out.

So as we roll out Paint the State across Montana, keep in mind that you, and your strength as a group, make this project possible.

The Montana Meth Project will also have the assistance of the Montana Meth Project Youth Advisory Council. The Youth Advisory Council is made up of 20 teens from across the state. They will act as key advisors to the Montana Meth Project by sharing a teen perspective on all of the Montana Meth Project's activities. They will also be powerful messengers in our communities and will work with local teachers and

community leaders, law enforcement and other Montana Meth Project volunteers to spearhead new public education and community outreach activities.

It's an exciting opportunity for the teens to get involved, and I'm pleased to announce that Emily Dean, from Big Sky High School, has been selected to serve on the committee. Please join me in congratulating Emily.