

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 21, 1983

The meeting of the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Bob Brown on January 21, 1983, at 1:04 p.m. in Room 325, State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: Roll was called with all present except Senator Severson who was excused.

Don Swan, a member of the Future Farmers of America from Park City, told the committee about the Community Development Project sponsored by the FFA in which they raised \$60,000 selling railroad ties. On a bid from Burlington Northern the group removed and sold 32,000 ties in nine months resulting in gross sales of \$110,000 and a net of \$60,000. The group has provided a \$100,000 shop addition to their Vo-Ag building with the proceeds of the sale, a solar grant from the Department of Natural Resources of \$22,000 (which the FFA group applied for and received), and a small mill levy. Don shared pictures of the project with the committee showing members working in every phase of construction from consulting with architects through completion of the building. Other projects the group has taken on in the past four years include developing a sports complex complete with lights, scoreboard, and wire fence, repainting the Senior Citizen Center, and an on-going project of a circus and pet barn for the residents of the nursing home. Don stated it was a privilege to appear before the committee and thanked the committee for the interest and support shown them and their small community.

SENATE BILL 43: Senator Blaylock, District 35, sponsor of the bill, introduced the staff of the Interim Foundation Program Study Committee, Andrea Merrill, Legislative Council and Steve Colberg, Office of Public Instruction, who were present to answer any questions.

Senator Blaylock said he introduced the bill not as an enemy of small schools, but because the trends show smaller high schools are more costly to operate, have fewer student offerings, and make less efficient use of the tax dollars and state aid which is available. He further stated he has consistently worked to increase foundation program funding and will continue to do so,

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however, with the dollar crunch we are facing there simply isn't enough money to go around. In the last ten years much property has been exempted from taxation: household goods - 1974, recreational vehicles - 1979, bank stock - 1979, business inventories - 1975, real property - 1977, centrally assessed property - 1979, and then in 1981 - tax cut trough year according to Senator Blaylock. He noted the tax rate for livestock and and poultry was halved and with all the tax cuts combined, we reduced the local government revenue by \$14 million. Schools took a proportionate share of the loss. \$3.2 million lost in revaluation of farm machinery combined with the business inventory exemption will reduce revenue by \$19.2 million a biennium. And, largest of all, income tax indexing will cost \$60 million in this biennium which includes a \$15 million loss to the foundation program. Senator Blaylock said due to the ballooning effect the loss in the next biennium could amount to a \$100 million loss. At this point there are two big programs in the state needing funding - highways and the foundation program and they are both looking at the same pot of money.

There are 67-70 high schools in the state which have less than 100 students. The bill does not affect all those schools as approximately 40 would be granted isolated status. Senator Blaylock noted South Dakota has a high percentage of consolidation. Wyoming has only three high schools with enrollments less than 100, and Nevada consolidation resulted in only one high school per county.

Senator Blaylock noted the university system is teaching 2041 students in remedial classes. He emphasized there is no break down in that figure of what size school those students came from - but mentioned it only to make the point the state cannot afford to fund these classes anymore. Students must be adequately prepared in high school and cannot rely on remedial courses at the university level to get by.

Senator Blaylock pointed out the difficulty of offering the breadth of curriculum in small schools as in larger schools. Trying to offer a large curriculum results in inefficient use of tax dollars and personnel when some teachers only have 2-3 students and are spread over at least 3 disciplines.

He closed by saying the bill may fail, but the problem won't go away. If the money shortage in two years is as bad as or worse than it is now, we will have to make more efficient use of our tax dollars and some 41 small schools will have to seriously consider consolidation. The bill would not

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cut the schools off but will force them to pay a larger share of the cost. He cited an example of inequity when one of the small schools receives \$5883 per student from the foundation program compared to \$1472 per student in a larger high school.

PROPONENTS

Rowland Throssell, Bozeman, representing himself, stated he has served as a principal of a small school and can see the advantages of consolidation. Students in small schools are denied many benefits, he noted. He pointed out the changes in education in the next ten years will be immense as well as expensive, i.e. computers. He suggested a study of high schools in Montana re transportation, curriculum and finances as this is a controversial subject which cannot be resolved in a short amount of time. Mr. Throssell suggested getting an out of state party to conduct the study as objectivity is needed in such an in depth study to come up with a sound program recommendation.

Mike Easton, parent, teacher, and Superintendent of Schools at Wilsall, presented his testimony in favor of the bill to the committee (attached testimony exhibit #1).

OPPONENTS

Richard Trerise, representing the Montana Association of County Superintendents, spoke in opposition to the bill. He stated SB43 shows total disregard of the principle of local control. He felt the bill cuts the throat of a small community's focal point - the local community center, the school. People will not give up their local schools and as a result of this bill increased taxes will have to be born by the people in Montana's heartland who want nothing more than to education their children well and close to home.

Donald Wolslagel, Culbertson, state the Culbertson High School requires a minimum of 21 credits for graduation, compared to many larger schools which require only 16. He felt they offer a very comprehensive, varied and quality program. He stated the bill would decimate Class 2-C sports. He noted many small schools exist because of school and sport activities and are the social centers of the community. He said the survival of small schools and the survival of rural communities are one in the same.

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Ed Argenbright, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction, stated the bill is another example of the state being the whip to force decisions at the local level. He stated there are ways to consolidate now and schools are consolidating already. However, he pointed out, schools should exist as long as the local people want them and the needs of the students are being met. He pointed out that all but one of the affected schools voted an additional levy last year and therefore are will to tax themselves to maintain their schools.

He presented a copy of the Rural School Study Task Force report to the committee (attached exhibit #2). In closing, Superintendent Argenbright urged the committee to support the foundation program at the 9% level.

Richard Rossignol, Superintendent of Schools, Westby, pointed out there is high school funding available for middle schools that offer specific courses. In Westby, they take advantage of that and share teachers between middle school and high school. The ACT scores are higher in Westby than in any Class A school. Westby is raising \$250,000 in voted mill levies for their system at present. As a small school Westby contributes to the foundation program \$348,289 elementary, \$249,325 high school, and if the 55 mill permissive levy passes will contribute another \$272,815. He stated the schools will consolidate when they can no longer do the job or can't get the levies passed.

Wayne Buchanen, representing the Montana School Boards Association, stated Senator Blaylock's arguments are valid as well as those of the other proponents. But he noted the arguments against consolidation are also very persuasive. There are a number of innovative ways for small schools to continue to operate. He stated the state should not force closure of schools; that local communities should be able to make their own decisions. He said he supports incentives for consolidation, however.

Dennis Williams, Superintendent of Highwood Public Schools, stated Highwood is an isolated school. He disagreed with the idea that small schools don't educate students well. He said Project RAVE originated in Highwood. He noted Highwood schools are able to individualize instruction due to low teacher/student ratios, all their test scores are excellent, and the students have the opportunities to participate in sports, drama, music, and many extracurricular activities. Mr. Williams pointed out 61% of the general fund budget is a voted levy.

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Phil Waber, Superintendent, Lambert Public Schools, spoke in opposition to the bill (attached exhibit #3).

Jo Brunner, representing Women Involved in Farm Economics, the Stockgrowers and Woolgrowers, spoke in opposition to the bill (attached exhibit #4).

Al Anderson, a teacher in the Willow Creek Public School, spoke in opposition to the bill (attached exhibit #5).

Richard R. Floren, Superintendent, Dodson Public Schools, stated he opposed Senator Blaylock's remarks. He felt small schools are doing a good job, but further study is needed as finances are the meat of the problem. The Dodson school is 17 miles from Malta and the cost to bus to Malta would be \$111,809 in bus transportation. Total cost of teacher salaries and equipment is currently \$107,621. The cost would be significantly higher to bus to Malta than to maintain the school in Dodson, not to mention an hour longer trip. He stated the bill is not fair to rural communities.

Ernie Jean, Superintendent of Schools, Opheim, agreed with previous remarks and pointed out a problem that had not yet been mentioned. His school system employs 16 non-certified staff who would be out of a job if they consolidated. He asked the committee to consider the unemployment problem that would exist if large scale consolidation were to take place.

Dale D. Sailer, Superintendent, Bainville, stated they have been concentrating on and attaining excellence in education and asked the committee not to cut them off at this point.

Mike Korich, Willow Creek School, spoke in opposition to the bill (attached exhibit #6).

John Hargrove, Harrison Schools, stated consolidation isn't the answer to resolving teacher and academic problems (attached exhibit #7).

Tom Doohan, Superintendent of Schools, Alberton, spoke in opposition to the bill (attached exhibit #8).

Jeanne Rankin, representing the Montana Farm Bureau, spoke in opposition to the bill (attached exhibit #9).

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Rod Thronson, Superintendent of Schools, Turner, presented a number of petitions to the committee, stating the signatures had all been obtained in one day (attached exhibit #10). He stated the implication that the breadth of courses offered denotes the quality of education is false. The closer you get to one on one education the closer you get to quality education. He pointed out to the committee the tedious and chancey procedures involved in applying for isolated status, noting it exceeds that of applying for water rights.

Richard Bolse, representing the Richey School Board, the Mayor, and City Council, stated when the big systems are in trouble they need the little systems to bail them out. They can start to give a little and we can all reach a solution he felt.

Gary Raft, Superintendent of Schools, Hobson, and also a parent and a taxpayer, called attention to the problem of consolidating schools across county lines. He said you then involve the county commissioners and the cross-county problem becomes another complication.

Representative Tom Asay, District 50, Forsyth, said rural people deserve consideration. If you disintegrate the schools in the small communities you disintegrate the family. He stated rural people want their children to have a quality education and will provide it.

Senator Ed Smith, District 1, Dagmar, stated he has seven schools in his district that would be affected. In Sheridan County if three schools, Outlook, Westby, and Medicine Lake, were consolidated, it would save the state \$107,194. Sheridan county contributes to the foundation fund \$1.6 million. By lowering the vehicle taxes the state lost \$104 - 120 million statewide. This amounted to \$13-15 million in Yellowstone County (Billings) alone which is far higher than the total of the livestock and farm equipment tax cut. Senator Smith asked the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and the Office of Public Instruction to research the 2041 students in remedial classes in the university system and there was no indication that any of the students were from small rural schools.

Senator Smith quoted from an article entitled "Rules, Schools, Excellent Education" which asserts smaller is better. He recommended the committee read the book "The Paideia Proposal"

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by Mortimer J. Adler, in which the author recommends programs occurring in smaller schools may well be the way for all schools to go as in many urban schools education is in a shambles. He further stated he had visited with John K. Ross Toole, who is a member of the Rhodes Scholar Foundation and had been told by Mr. Toole that bigger isn't better - most of their students come from small schools.

CLOSING: Senator Blaylock, in closing, stated in regard to Senator Smith's remarks, he couldn't agree more. But, he pointed out, we're not talking about a few real bright kids but lots of kids from all over who after high school are competing with people from schools with richer curriculums.

He noted Superintendent Argenbright's report stated boundaries should not be the main restrictors and each district should have the option to consolidate. He said he feels the university system must be told to stop remedial classes due to financial restraints as students must have adequate preparation in high school. He noted further that all the superintendents that testified are from isolated schools but two. He said he felt like Custer at the Bighorn but repeated again, the problem is not going to go away - we simply do not have the money.

SENATE BILL 95: Senator McCallum, District 12, sponsor of the bill, introduced Mr. Don Waldron, Superintendent, Hellgate Elementary District, Missoula, who reviewed the federal law on National Forest Funds (attached exhibit #11). Referring to the sheet "Forest Reserve Monies - How to Figure Impact to a Given County" Mr. Waldron said the 1981 figures are about the same but for 1982-83 they would be 25% with some as low as 70% (attached exhibit #12).

There has been some concern that school administrators and school boards would increase the general fund revenues because they had this money to work with. In answer to those concerns, the money would be delegated to county wide levies such as transportation, teacher retirement, elementary and high school teacher social security. Those levies would reduce on a county wide basis and the districts could not use the money to inflate their own budgets. These counties are largely owned by the federal government which does not pay taxes on the federal land. The forest funds are intended to compensate the counties for the tax dollars they lose as a result. Mr. Waldron maintains the state of Montana does not handle these funds fairly or properly.

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PROPONENTS

Bill Donahue, Superintendent of Schools, Superior, thanked Senator McCallum for sponsoring the bill. He stated Mineral County is 83% federal land and therefore they can only tax 17% of the land in the county. He stated if the bill passed it would mean \$56,000 to his school district. He said that amount might not look like much but with \$141,000 voted levy, the highest unemployment rate going, and mills closing and the foundation program funding in question any help at all is appreciated.

Bill Gould, Lincoln County Commissioner, referred the committee to the attached sheets (exhibit #13) and urged them to support the bill. He stated the counties desperately need the money.

Wayne Buchanan, representing the Montana School Boards Association, stated that organization voted to support the bill at their convention as a matter of equity.

Tom Doohan, Superintendent of Schools, Albion, spoke in support of the bill stating his is the most highly levied district in the state and they desperately need the help the bill offers (attached exhibit #14).

Robert Banks, representing Frenchtown School District #401, stated he was administrator of a county in Idaho where the federal government owns 96% of the land. Because the county received its rightful share under federal law, they survived. He pointed out they would never have made it if the allotment was handled the way it is in Montana.

Mr. Waldrom said he had letters and resolutions from many organizations, school districts, and individuals in the counties which he would be happy to share with the committee if they so desired.

Senator Mohar, District 11, Troy, urged support of the bill.

OPPONENTS

Gary Steuerwald, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, stated the bill would be a \$4.6 million drain on the foundation program. He said if the legislature could replace the lost money he would not oppose the bill.

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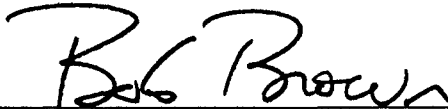
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Owen Nelson, representing the Montana Education Association, spoke in opposition to the bill (attached exhibit #15).

There being no further opponents to the bill Senator McCallum closed.

ADJOURN: There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bob Brown", written in dark ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Senator Bob Brown, Chairman

jdr.

ROLL CALL

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1983

Date 1/21/83

| NAME | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCUSED |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| <u>Senator Bob Brown, Chairman</u> | X | | |
| <u>Senator Ed Smith, V. Chairman</u> | X | | |
| <u>Senator Roger Elliott</u> | X | | |
| <u>Senator Delwyn Gage</u> | X | | |
| <u>Senator George McCallum</u> | X | | |
| <u>Senator Elmer Severson</u> | | | X |
| <u>Senator Harry Berg</u> | X | | |
| <u>Senator Chet Blaylock</u> | X | | |
| <u>Senator Jack Haffey</u> | X | | |
| <u>Senator Joseph Mazurek</u> | X | | |
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TO: Senate Committee on Education and Cultural Resources

FROM: Lee Heiman, Committee Counsel

DATE: January 21, 1983

RE: Bill Summaries of Senate Bills 43 and 95

Senate Bill 43. (Blaylock). The bill would limit nonisolated high schools of under 100 ANB to the same schedule allowed for schools with 100 ANB, or \$1,747 per ANB. If a high school was designated as isolated, using the isolation criteria for elementary schools in the administrative rules (ARM 10.13.102), it would receive the same schedule rate now awarded that size of district.

Senate Bill 95. (McCallum). Provides that the one-third of money received from the federal government as forest reserve funds be allocated to the county high school transportation, elementary teacher retirement, and high school retirement funds rather than being used for foundation equalization purposes. If the money received is greater than the funds require, the money is held over for the next year.

DATE

1-21-83

COMMITTEE ON

Education & Cultural Resources

VISITORS' REGISTER

| NAME | REPRESENTING | BILL # | Check One | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| | | | Support | Oppose |
| Pat Fairbank | Wintona Federation of Teachers | 43 | | |
| " " | " " | 95 | | |
| Byron Lofgren | Visitor | | | |
| Bob McNeal | Hamp | | | |
| Jack Adkins | Sidney | 43 | | ✓ |
| Jim Horton | Baker | 43 | | ✓ |
| Con Schluenger | Baker | 43 | | ✓ |
| Pat Price | Judith App Schools | 43 | | ✓ |
| Linda Bishop Peterson | Judith App Schools | 43 | | ✓ |
| Carol W. Lemish | Senate Side | 43 | | |
| Charles Upfinger | H.D. #3 | 43 | | ✓ |
| Faust L. Larson | School Dist. #45 Wolf Point | 43 | | ✓ |
| Sarah Listerud | " " " | 43 | | |
| Mary Lou Hapson | Wolf Point | 43 | | ✓ |
| Mike Conner | Willow Creek | 43 | | ✓ |
| Janette Mack | Willow Creek | 43 | | ✓ |
| Daryl Barker | Willow Creek | 43 | | ✓ |
| John Steingrubel | Willow Creek | 43 | | ✓ |
| Jack E. Lober | Poplar | 43 | | |
| Dennis Leibold | Sidney | | | |
| Sam Roney | Billings | | | |
| Alex Hoot | Billings | | | |
| Bob Williams | Hobson | 43 | | ✓ |
| Earl Messing | SCHOOL DIST 4 LIBBY & MSBA | 43 | | |
| Stanley Lund | Med Lake Schools | 43 | | ✓ |
| Delores Luss | Med Lake School | 43 | | ✓ |
| Marie McAllister | Town Bridges | 43 | | ✓ |

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

DATE

1-21-83

COMMITTEE ON

VISITORS' REGISTER

| NAME | REPRESENTING | BILL # | Check One | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| | | | Support | Oppose |
| David Myers | Plano Public Schools | 43 | | ✓ |
| Jim Schell | Park City | 43 | | ✓ |
| Dan Fudge | Mike Halligan Senate | 43 | | |
| Robert Coon | Richland County School Dist. 11 | 43 | | ✓ |
| Orlo Stevens | Richland County School Dist. no 28 | 43 | | ✓ |
| Don R. Mercer | Rich. Co. Dist #21 | 43 | | ✓ |
| Norman E. Cook | Treasure Co. Dist. 7 | 43 | | ✓ |
| Sally J. M. Huse | Superior | 43 | | |
| Lolores Vestal | Denton Dist. #84 | 43 | | |
| Vinton Kolar | Hobson Dist # 25 | 43 | | ✓ |
| Brad Niede | no one | " | ✓ | ✓ |
| Chitt Stockton | Myself | 43 | ✓ | |
| Kevin Dolan | ASMSU Exponent | 43 | ✓ | ✓ |
| Patricia Schyge | (Glasgow) Self | 43 | | |
| Marianne Barriell | Hobson, MT | 43 | | ✓ |
| Ronald J. Ford | Leavitt, MT | | | |
| Kare Youse | Lewistown, MT | | | |
| F. W. Kespreider | Simms School District 68 F | 43 | | |
| J. W. Rust | Vaughn School Dist. #74 | 43 | ✓ | |
| J. C. Nielsen | Vaughn School Dist #74 | 43 | | |
| Gene Ackerson | Vaughn Dist #74 | 43 | | ✓ |
| Marilyn Morse | Cascade Dist #3 & B | 43 | | ✓ |
| Pat Conway | Browning Dist #9 | 43 | | ✓ |
| Don Snow | Park City | 43 | | ✓ |
| Frank Nelson | Twin Bridges School Dist. #7 | 43 | | ✓ |
| Harold Toland | Colstrip | 43 | | ✓ |

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

1-21-83

BILL NO.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

[illegible]

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

DATE

1-21-83

COMMITTEE ON

BILL NO.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

| NAME | REPRESENTING | Check One | |
|--------------------|--|-----------|--------|
| | | Support | Oppose |
| Richard Rossignol | Westby Schools | | X |
| Ronald M. Mable | Culbertson Schools | | X |
| Rod Thompson | Turner Schools | | X |
| Dale H. Smith | Bainville Montana | | X |
| Phil Waber | Lambert Schools | | X |
| Robert Banks | Frenchtown, Schools | 95 ✓ | |
| William Donahue | Superior, Schools | 95 X | |
| John Hoffman | Alberton Schools | 95 X | 43 X |
| Don Waldron | Helena Dem. Dist #4 Males | 95 X | |
| John Hargrove | Harrison Public Schools | | SB 43 |
| Mike Korich | Willow Creek Schools | | SB 43 |
| Mary Ellen Jensen | Willow Creek School's | | SB 43 |
| Margaret Vandolake | " " " | | SB 43 |
| Lawrence Brunell | | SB 43 | |
| Richard Boese | Bicycle - mt. School Board Mayor & City Council | | ✓ |
| Bill Gould | Lincoln County | SB 95 | |
| Richard L. Whit | St Regis Public Schools | SB 95 | SB 43 |
| Ed. B. Smith | State Senate | | SB 43 |
| W. B. Brown | W. I. F. E. | 43 | ✓ |
| Tom Brown | Dist 50 - | | ✓ |
| Jacob Dyer | Missoula Dist #1 | SB 95 | |
| Owen Nelson | M E A | | SB 95 |
| Gary Steinerwald | O P E | | SB 95 |

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

DATE

1-21-83

COMMITTEE ON

BILL NO. SB43

VISITOR'S REGISTER

| NAME | REPRESENTING | Check One | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| | | Support | Oppose |
| Richard Inerise | MACSS | | ✓ |
| Jeanne Rankin | MT Farm Bureau | | ✓ |
| R. Flou | DODSON | | ✓ |
| Richard Boen | Brickey | | ✓ |
| Gary Rafter | Habison | | ✓ |
| Jerry Selman | Power Public School | | ✓ |
| John W. Helms | Brady Public Schools | | ✓ |
| Joe C. McCreesh | Quinton Public Schools | | ✓ |
| Dennis William | Highwood Public Schools | | ✓ |
| AL ANDERSON | WILLOW CREEK | | ✓ |
| Gill Hargraves | St. Lawrence Public Schools | | ✓ |
| John C. Brenden | Scobey School - Scobey, MT | | ✓ |
| Fred Chomard | Willow Creek | | ✓ |
| Ernie Johnson | Montana School Bd Assn | | ✓ |
| Thady Exline | " " " | | |
| Will Brooke | MT. Stockgrowers / MT Woodgrowers | | ✓ |
| Mark Inverness | SI ORO, MONT | | ✓ |
| Jack Adkins | Sidney MT - | | ✓ |
| Tucker Hill | Richland County | | ✓ |
| BOB MULLEN | " " | | ✓ |
| Ana Brynden | Danah County | | ✓ |
| Marion Johnson | " " | | ✓ |
| Joe D. Steinboisser Jr. | Sidney School | | ✓ |
| Bernard B. Lutz | West Troy | | ✓ |
| Mr & Mrs Harry Blumeyer | Savage | | ✓ |
| Jeanne Luttrell | West Troy, mt. | | ✓ |

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

DATE 1-21-83

COMMITTEE ON _____ BILL NO. _____

BILL NO. _____

VISITOR'S REGISTER

[illegible]

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

NAME: Rowland Thressell DATE: 1/21/83

ADDRESS: 4 Gardner Park Drive, Bozeman

PHONE: 586-9637

REPRESENTING WHOM? Self

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: Small school closing

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

*Mike Easton
Will*

Exhibit #1 January 21, 1983

In review of Mr. Blaylock's bill, I favor its intent, but not its mechanism.

Montana State constitution in 1972 specified that the legislature must provide a basic system of free public schools and fund the state's share of educational costs. After the establishment of the foundation program in 1949, the foundation program was to provide fund equalization on a statewide and county basis. The legislature in 1973 reworked county equalization taxes so that uniformity existed on a statewide basis.

The intent of the equalization process is one of equality as used in school finance: (1) equal educational opportunity and (2) fiscal burden shared equally among all state taxpayers. The intent is well taken, as is Mr. Blaylock's; however, there is not equalization when the great degrees variance exists statewide in comparing taxable evaluations and number of mills assessed county to county.

The current foundation program attempts to address philosophically equalization, but it is in theory only because it is not equal when it costs five times as much to educate a student in Reed Point verses that in Miles City. Equally in funding verses educational opportunity does not exist in Montana.

In small Montana high schools, school officials have done a commendable job in educating students, particularly when one considers the limitations of staffing and operational costs. But I also think that it is high time school boards in districts that can reasonably consolidate recognize the fact that only a small percentage of students can return to their home town for a livelihood in agriculture. Urban American is dictating the future of our children and as a small school administrator, I cannot hold down costs, provide the board range of educational expericne necessary to meet tomorrow's needs without requiring additional vocational training. The strength of a student's future lies with each family's values, not the school.

Small school environments do hurt students. I have seen students belittled because they attempt to achieve as a result of the overemphasis of extracurricular

activities. And most importantly, the lethargic attitude students develop due to a lack of academic competition. Teachers become forced to lower grade standards because the parents are sure the student is an honor student when, in fact, a "C" average is maximum. I have seen teachers in small schools evaluated by boards based solely on the grades they give. I have seen small schools with "C" average grade standards for participation in extracurricular activities become lowered simply because the coach will lose a star player.

From the financial aspect, I give you a case in point. Wilsall, eight miles away from Clyde Park, has a high school building built in the 1915's. It now needs replacement or to be extensively remodeled to the tune of \$500,000. A new building will cost \$750,000 with a continued enrollment projection of 40 - 50 students. Clyde Park has a newer facility built in the 60's and can house the additional 40-50 students we have at Wilsall. By consolidation, one can reduce the cost of one administrator, one staff, one operational cost, and possibly reduce supply costs through better volume purchases.

Consolidation then doubles ^{the} taxable valuation to reduce tax burden. This point must be clarified extremely. Under the current structure of the Foundation Program, it is not cheaper to consolidate because the increased ANB provides less ANB dollars and with the current budget at Clyde Park, it would leave things status quo.

Consolidation would, however, benefit academics by reducing some of the problems previously addressed. There is research available from E.R.I.C. Centers that shows schools of the 200 to 1200 range have the highest rate of academic achievement and vocational success.

The answer to the dilemma Mr. Blaylock is attempting to address lies partially within his bill.

I suggest the following:

- (1) Mr. Argenbright's O.S.P.I. Rural study group suggested getting off the books the incentive for consolidation.

(2) Provide every student in Montana with the exact same foundation rate dollar for dollar. That way a student in Billings is equal to one in Brady.

(3) Then, If a school qualifies for isolated school, they then receive additional weighted ANB.

Students from small rural Montana high schools survive in spite of schools, not because of them. Family values determine the outcome.

Thank you,

NAME: Richard Treise DATE: 1-21-83

ADDRESS: 316 N Park Helena

PHONE: 443-1010

REPRESENTING WHOM? Mt assoc CoSupts

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? ☒ _____

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Donald Wolslage/ DATE: 1-21-83

ADDRESS: PO Box 459, Culbertson, MT.

PHONE: 787-6212

REPRESENTING WHOM? School Dist. 17

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: S.B. 43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE? X

COMMENTS: Verbal Statement to be given

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

This Task Force was created by the State superintendent to study the educational services provided for students attending the small secondary schools in the State of Montana.

The work and recommendations of this committee are based on the assumption that small high schools have some unique advantages and some disadvantages. The proportion of students who participate in performances, competitive events, student government and non-academic courses is greater than in larger schools. Moreover, the small school is an integral part of the community and frequently enjoys strong community support. However, the small high schools seldom have some of the enrichment offerings that go beyond the basic courses. Recent studies appear to imply that perhaps the best way to accomplish rural school improvement is to enhance the inherent strengths of rural schools rather than attempt to force them to fit outside structures.

There are 87 small public secondary schools in Montana, and the schools range anywhere in size between 13 and 145 students. Since enrollment in the small secondary schools has gone down in the State of Montana during the last decade, this committee met to discuss possible recommendations and options to help alleviate this ever-growing problem in the State's school system. With Montana's sparse population and its terrain, it has been projected that some of the small schools will be here for some time.

The following recommendations address the basic problems faced by the small secondary schools of the State, which are identified by this committee. The implementation of these recommendations will require statutory changes, others will require policy changes at the State level, while still others can be carried out by the local school districts. Therefore, this committee does not attempt to prescribe the methods and procedures to be followed in implementing these recommendations in all instances.

1. Remove barriers to consolidation by changing the existing laws in the State of Montana.

Boundary lines, e.g., county lines or present district boundaries, should not be the main consideration, nor should they be restrictors to patrons of a district who wish to consider consolidation. Each district should have the option to consolidate. However, high schools identified as having small enrollment and located within a reasonable distance of other high schools may be required to fund their programs to a larger degree with local resources.

2. Consider options for cooperative staffing at the high school level.

Some flexibility is suggested for small schools. To hire specialized teachers, such as art or music teachers, for smaller schools can be very difficult. Because teachers are usually hired to teach more than one subject, many students are denied access to specialized subjects. It is rare for a college student to graduate with a double major and/or a major and a minor. It should be made easier for school districts to cooperatively staff their high schools by jointly hiring specialized subject teachers.

3. Colleges and universities should be more responsive to the needs of the schools in terms of teacher-training.

Some colleges are quite responsive to the needs of the small schools in the State and do in fact advise and prepare their students to work in the small schools of Montana. Other colleges and universities should become more aware of the needs of smaller schools and communities in preparing their students for employment. Courses could be offered to

education students so that they could be better informed of the advantages and disadvantages of teaching in smaller communities. Teacher candidates should observe and/or do paraprofessional training in a rural setting early in the teacher education program. Multi-grade and multi-endorsed teachers could be a tremendous boost to the small schools and, in fact, are a necessity in most small high schools.

4. Make vocational-educational opportunities more readily available for students of small high schools.

Planned visitations and educational experiences of varying time spans outside of the community could be beneficial for rural students. Such programs would provide an opportunity for students in small communities to increase their knowledge of careers and of the outside world. Cooperative planning of area schools could facilitate these programs.

5. Provide assistance to administrators for special needs.

The small school administrators wear many hats, i.e., building principal, bus driver, budget expert, curriculum advisor, coach, and it is very difficult to keep up on all areas of administration. Circuit rider administrators, program specialists from the Office of Public Instruction, and/or college consultants could be hired by the district(s) to provide services or in-service training.

6. Identify and promote intensive instructional programs.

More rural high schools should be encouraged to provide experiences beyond the classroom. Highly motivated persons could be brought into a school system for a few days or weeks to provide this enrichment for the students. We recommend providing these enrichment opportunities because many rural high school students are either not receiving training in some specialized fields or are being taught by teachers without adequate background in these areas. Art, music, drama, gymnastics, poetry, etc., are disciplines of particular concern.

7. Allow for flexibility in accreditation standards in relation to the certification of staff.

Present State policy does not provide sufficient flexibility in accreditation standards to allow the use of personnel who are not certified. Perhaps a system, such as that currently used in the Vo-Tech institutions, can be introduced wherein qualifications of instructors have been established and instruction has been successful. This avenue should be considered when it is extremely difficult to fill a particular position with a certified person. This would be contingent upon proof that a district has attempted to hire a certified person.

8. Introduce the four-day week as a local option for school districts in the State of Montana.

Laws would need to be changed from the present standard of "days" to "days and/or hours," e.g., 180 days changed to 1,080 hours. Increased energy costs have caused some states (Colorado and Michigan) to successfully

implement the four-day week in their school systems. It is reported that the quality of education has not been adversely affected, while the morale of teachers and students has improved, and energy consumption, transportation costs, and absenteeism have been reduced.

9. Provide different modes of delivering instruction on a cooperative basis.

Explore the use of computers, videotapes, video discs, and other media to supplement materials for specific subject areas, such as physics, chemistry, language, etc. Mobile units should also be explored. Programs could be shared with other schools to reduce expenses. All professional staff should be trained in the use of media technology, especially computers. There is a need to explore a business management computer system and also to observe those systems already in use. Establishing a computer-base for management could be a great advantage, especially for time-consuming reports. Cooperative maintenance of software and hardware of the computer system may be advantageous.

10. Provide opportunity for input by teachers in generating ideas for educational options in small high schools.

Educators in the schools constitute a valuable and often overlooked resource for resolving the problems of the school programs. A cooperative approach utilizing the ideas of teachers, administrators, trustees, and the community would enhance the educational programs in the small high schools.

11. Organize and conduct additional workshops and/or seminars for teachers and administrators of small schools emphasizing alternatives available to schools in the areas of:

- a. Cooperative staffing for instruction (within and among schools).
- b. Utilization of community resource personnel to supplement the instructional program offered by certified instructors.
- c. Cooperative staffing for administration (among schools).
- d. Encouraging the sharing and exchanging of staff and program.
- e. Differentiated staffing for instruction.
- f. Flexible scheduling.
- g. Cooperative use of educational equipment and software.
- h. Utilization of independent study and correspondence courses to fulfill requirements and to enrich curricular offerings.
- i. Encouraging other methods and innovative practices that will enhance the educational opportunities of students.

NAME: Richard Rossignol DATE: 1-21-83

ADDRESS: Westby MT. 57225

PHONE: 385-2258

REPRESENTING WHOM? Westby

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: S.B. 43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? X

COMMENTS: I feel the Bill is unfair
to small schools

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Wayne Buchanan

DATE: Jan 21

ADDRESS: Helena

PHONE: 442-2180

REPRESENTING WHOM? MSBA

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? X

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME :

DATE: _____

ADDRESS:

PHONE :

REPRESENTING WHOM?

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL:

DO YOU :

SUPPORT?

AMEND?

OPPOSE?

COMMENTS:

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

S.B. #43

Phil Waber - Superintendent, Lambert Public Schools
- with a high school of fifty students.

I speak in opposition to S.B. #43.

I strongly recommend that the principle of local control of schools remains status quo.

Negative reinforcement, in this case a greater financial burden on local taxpayers desiring to continue operation of their local high schools, is no longer a widely held behavior modification technique with humans. Dogs? Yes! People? No!

Positive reinforcement, such as the present funding incentives in the Foundation program work better. This is evidenced by the consolidations along the Hi-Line.

Even then, there are problems. Individuals not desiring the consolidation become bitter toward their former friends. But generally, when the need arises, consolidation will take place.

In small communities, the school serves as the educational, social and cultural pivot point. To force closings or increase local expenses would be totally disruptive to a traditional way of Montana life.

In closing, please keep more governmental mandates, such as this bill, out of our lives.

Thank you



WIFE Women Involved in Farm Economics

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME Jo Brunner BILL NO. SB 43
 ADDRESS 563 3rd St. Helena, DATE January 21/83
 REPRESENT Women Involved in Farm Economics
 SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE X AMEND _____

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Jo Brunner and I speak today for the members of the Women Involved in Farm Economics organization.

We wish to go on record as opposing Senate Bill 43. We do not believe the closing of our smaller schools has a beneficial puppose. Our schools are the hearts of our communities and once they close the communities wither away. We are sure that there are valid arguements on both sides of any such discussion or issue, and perhaps we can be accused of being overly sentimental and that sentimenatality does not educate our childfen. We have seen our railraad depots close, in the guise of progress, our towns have watched the highways leave them behind, and we battle constantly the efforts to consolidate our schools with neighboring towns, and I guess we will continue the battle because we do not believe that such closures are necessary or beneficial.

we dispute the idea that our children do not have a benefit of large schools - sports, more money, etc.
 I would like to enter a personal note here, in support of the type of *debt* people that graduate from small school systems. At one time a few years ago, therelived within a 24 mile radius of my home, the chairman of the Wheat Commission, the president of the Farmers Union *example* and the Director of the Department of Agriculture of the State of Montana, all graduates of small highschoools--and two from the same school. That same school *the superintendent from the department of ag* has *most this graduate* a couple of doctors and a couple of dentists, a veterinarin; a neighboring school graduated our county attorney, and I see every day at least three people employed in our state capitol from that school. Thank you.

Also speak for the Stockgrowers & the Woolgrowers

NAME: AL ANDERSON DATE: JAN 21

ADDRESS: R.R. 1 BOX 192

PHONE: 285-3488

REPRESENTING WHOM? Willow Creek A.S.

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: BILL 43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? X

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

WILLOW CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

SCHOOL DISTRICTS NO. 15 AND J-15-17

WILLOW CREEK, MONTANA 59760

Exhibit #5
January 21, 1983

SMALL SCHOOLS ARE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE

by Al Anderson

As a teacher, counselor and librarian in Willow Creek High School, when I read legislation about closing small community schools I ask, "Why?"

Are small schools less efficient? Agreed, small schools receive a larger A and B, but how much? A "B" class school gets 1,800 per student, while Willow Creek receives 3,400 a difference of 1,600 X 22 students = 35,000. We are talking about 35,000 more in A and B monies. To consolidate a district buses would run 50 miles round trip a day X 180 days, at a standard 20 cents a mile the total cost would be 2,000 X two bus routes to cover the entire district 4,000. The difference would then be 31,000, BUT a new bus to safely cover that area is now 30,000 plus maintenance. There would be no saving! No parent would want their child on a bus for 1 hour a day, especially in a farming ranching community.

Chet Blaylock has grossely errored by dumping the responsibility of 2000 remedial students on the small schools - an inexcuseable generalization for a senator.

Chet Blaylock's cover word "Rich Curriculum" can be interpreted as the easy way out. The basic curriculum of English, math, physics, chemistry, and business Willow Creeek has purposefully kept because we don't want students substituting arts and crafts for upper division math; photography for physics; work release programs where students are local "bag boys" for chemistry.

Since 1950, 46% of all graduates have taken upper division math classes at Willow Creek, 40% of all graduates have taken physics, and 61% of all graduates have taken chemistry.

How do Willow Creek students score on national academic tests?

Since 1965 Willow Creek students have scored over the 90th percentile 128 times on national scholastic tests, an 49 times in the 95th percentile which is the top 5 per cent in our country. Willow Creek students have scored the 99th percentile 14 times in math on national academic tests.

52% of all graduates from Willow Creek go on to post secondary education and are successful. Of all Willow Creek graduates from 1960, only one student is unemployed!

Chet Blaylock has distorted the truth that teachers in small schools are inadequately prepared. In fact the State Department of Public Instruction through accreditation standards DEMANDS teacher competency. Willow Creek has REGULAR ACCREDITATION. In fact, now, we have an endorsed librarian, a guidance counselor with an endorsement, English teacher who graduated from the University of Montana, a math teacher who graduated from Montana State University with a 3.9 grade point, a first grade teacher with a forgein language minor, a music teacher who is an accomplished musician. Last year we had such a fine math instructor that Montana State University hired him.

What do Willow Creek students do after they graduate?

Willow Creek has a very high percentage of distinguished professionals. Bill Albro is a Dr. of Veterinary; Dr. Ray Woodward is a professor; James Kent is a 4 star General in the Air Force; Marianne Mack Holmberg is a nurse in a heart unit; Bernie Meskimen is an engineer; Ken Mosby is the Gallatin County Assessor; Walt Mosby is with Applied Business Systems in Bozeman; Terry Murphy is president of Montana's Farmer's Union; Dave Williams is in T.V. and Radio production in Billings; Richard Kent is an engineer; William Covey is a teacher in Helena; Nolan Murphy works for the Forest Service; and Mary Kent is a chemical engineer.

NAME: RICHARD R FLOREN DATE: 1-21-83

DATE: 1-21-83

ADDRESS: Box 278 DODSON, MT!

PHONE: 383-4362

REPRESENTING WHOM? DODSON School District 2A-C

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SIB - 43

SUPPORT?

AMEND?

OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

(This sheet to be used by those testifying on a bill.)

Exhibit #6 January 21, 1983

NAME: Mike Korick DATE: Jan. 21, 1983

ADDRESS: Box 128

PHONE: 285-6667 285-6991

REPRESENTING WHOM? Willow Creek School

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: S.B. 43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE? ✓

COMMENTS: Highly Opposed - Have been in
Small schools for over 30 years as teacher
& Admin. & feel they give a quality
education & ~~are~~ ~~the~~ they look out after
the tax dollar as well or better than most
Believe in local control. Believe that big
is not better. Take offense when people say
schools under 100 can't give a quality education
& don't have adequately trained teachers. Small schools
have produced an amazingly high percentage of
good people & successful people. ~~Great~~
Small schools are good for our young people &
our Montana Communities

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

"Smallness is not an early and imperfect version of something bigger."
Hal Stearns - Montana Publisher - Historian

A STUDY IN VERMONT SHOWED*****

1. That those who liked school went to a small school.
2. Students were closer to the teacher and other students in a small school.
3. Most Vermonters who went to larger schools felt they wasted their time because the education was boring and repetitive.
4. The study recommended a return to smaller schools.
5. Schools should be learning centers preferably small communities or neighborhood centers.

DR. RAY WOODWARD A 1933 GRADUATE OF WILLOW CREEK HIGH STATED: (1973 COMMENCEMENT)

1. How fortunate students are to graduate from a small school in a small town in an agricultural community.
2. It is a fact that more students don't make a better school any more than more people make a better city. Who has more problems than New York City.
3. In Willow Creek a student has the opportunity to be an individual known by each teacher and the community. It is very easy to lose your identity in some of the large schools and cities in this nation.
4. In Willow Creek a student is privileged to grow up in a clean, healthy environment --- there are few places in the world where the air, the water, and the general outlook are this clean.
5. Willow Creek students are indeed fortunate to have grown up in a little school and community which may not have produced any Presidents, but has produced an amazingly high percentage of good people and successful people.

In the Willow Creek School we firmly believe "Small Is Beautiful" --We firmly believe in smallness as both a virtue and an advantage.

Exhibit # 7 January 21, 1983

NAME: JOHN HARGROVE DATE: 1/21/83

ADDRESS: Box 163 Harrison, MT 59735

PHONE: 685-3526 or 685-3428

REPRESENTING WHOM? Harrison Public Schools

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE? X

COMMENTS: I strongly disagree with any attempt to
consolidate school districts from the the state level.
If consolidation is an issue it should be handled
at the local level with the districts involved. The
hint that small schools are not providing quality
education is false. The record and past performance
of small districts under 100 compares with those of
any district if comparison is possible. Each school
district has to meet the Federal, State and local
needs and expectations. The small districts are
doing the job

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME:

J.P. Dorfan

DATE:

1/21/83

ADDRESS:

Box 118, Albion, Mt. 59820

PHONE:

(406) 722-3381

REPRESENTING WHOM?

Jt. School Dist. #2

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL:

43

DO YOU:

~~SUPPORT~~

OPPOSE ✓

AMEND?

OPPOSE? ✓

COMMENTS:

In many communities, too, the schools are the cultural, educational, recreational, and employment centers of the community. Without them, communities would die.

Property values would decline. Property is less marketable without schools.

Comprehensive educational programs are indeed available. By definition, "basic" education is prescribed by the O.P.T. accreditation standards. We are accredited against the same standards. Testing shows small schools superior in many, even most, academic areas. Individual attention and flexible availability of student participation are hallmark

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

elements of smaller school education.

These should be enhanced, not attacked as SB 43 would do.

Thank you.

Exhibit #9, January 21, 1983

NAME: Janne Rankin

DATE: Jan 23, 1983

ADDRESS: 502 S. 19th Bozeman, MT

PHONE: ~~5~~

REPRESENTING WHOM? Montana Farm Bureau

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB- #43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE? ☒

COMMENTS: We support an educational structure
that allows our rural people to have local
rural schools, locally administered and
that these presently in existence, should be
maintained. We therefore oppose to SB #43

I personally attended a small High School in Sunburst
& greatly appreciate the opportunities offered to me there.

I participated in Sports, Student Government & Math-Science
Club. I am proud to say that Our science dept competes with
Battle, Missoula, Bozeman and all Denise A schools & have
won the State Science fair both times in the last 5 yrs. Our

Science teacher Larry Fargue is Nationally acclaimed & I
feel that even though we are small the opportunities offered
PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

to our students in academics unfathomable.

Janne M. Rankin

NAME: Rod Thronson, Supt. of Schools DATE: 1-21-83

ADDRESS: PO Box 151 Jurney, MT. 59542

PHONE: 379-2315

REPRESENTING WHOM? Turner High School (School Dist #43)

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? X

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

Exhibit 10
Jan. 31, 1983

Petition Against S.B. 43

We, the undersigned, are urging you to defeat Senate Bill 43!

Being members of the Turner and Hogeland communities we support the continued existence of Turner High School. Senate Bill 43, in its present form, would cause one of three things to occur:

1. Force the closure of Turner High School because the local tax burden will be so excessive that local taxpayers can't absorb the increase, or
2. In order to meet the financial burden, the budget would have to be reduced to a point where the quality of education would suffer and eventually accreditation standard deviations would be so numerous as to force closure of the school, or
3. It will require an application for isolated status be submitted each year that is a tedious, time-consuming and difficult process that could be stopped at the whim of the County Superintendent of Schools, the County Commissioners or the State Superintendent of Schools.

Please defeat the bill!

| | NAME | ADDRESS | DATE |
|----|---------------------|-------------------|---------|
| #1 | Andrew C. Jungers | Hogeland, Montana | 1-18-83 |
| 2 | Artis Simons | Turner Mt | 1-18-83 |
| 3 | John W. McCracken | Turner MT. | 1-18-83 |
| | Patricia M. Lammert | Turner Montana | 1-18-83 |
| 5 | Phyllis Neely | Turner, mt. | 1-18-83 |
| 6 | Marion Hofer | Turner, Mt. | 1-18-83 |
| 7 | Kathy Hofer | Turner MT | 1-18-83 |
| 8 | Gerald Koller | Turner MT | 1-19-83 |
| 9 | H. Fred Lese | Turner, Mt | 1-19-83 |
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Jan. 21, 1983

Petition Against S.B. 43

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Please defeat the bill!

| | NAME | ADDRESS | DATE |
|----|------------------|----------|---------|
| #1 | Barbara Lewis | Hogeland | 1-19-83 |
| 2 | Anne Humphreys | Hogeland | 1-19-83 |
| 3 | Karl Humphreys | Hogeland | 1-19-83 |
| 4 | Ed Humphreys | Hogeland | 1-19-83 |
| 5 | S.R. Humphreys | Hogeland | 1-19-83 |
| 6 | Donna Olsen | Hogeland | 1-19-83 |
| 7 | Richard Hamilton | Hogeland | 1-20-83 |
| 8 | Bruce W. Tordueh | Hogeland | 1-20-83 |
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Exhibit #11
Jan. 21, 1983

Petition Against S.D. 43

We, the undersigned, are urging you to defeat Senate Bill 43!

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Please defeat the bill!

| | NAME | ADDRESS | DATE |
|----|-----------------------|----------|---------|
| #1 | Virginia L. McCracken | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 2 | Jeanette M. Kimmel | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 3 | Sandra Neay | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 4 | Jeffy McCracken | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 5 | Lucille Kirkbeck | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 6 | Marilyn Hutton | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 7 | Theresa Cowen | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 8 | Kathy Wendels | Hogeland | 1-18-83 |
| 9 | Tim Dougan | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 10 | Mary Alice Sutherland | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 11 | Neenie Cedarberg | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 12 | Glenns Ammer | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 13 | Clarice Kagle | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 14 | Cecilia Van Vleet | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 15 | Marjorie Kiefe | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 16 | Jeanne Jones | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 17 | Richard Harding | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 18 | John Mober | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 19 | Barbara E. Eichen | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 20 | Helen Horsburg | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 21 | Janet Smith | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 22 | Barbara Reed | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 23 | Leona G. Schuler | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 24 | Don Jones | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 25 | Mona Foster | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 26 | Donna Bink | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 27 | Phil Hutton | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 28 | Pat D. Gault | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 29 | Jacqueline Welch | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 30 | Don Feltz | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 31 | Lori L. Grier | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 32 | Barbara Gitter | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 33 | Paul S. Grier | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 34 | Linda R. Johnson | Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 35 | Isabelle L. Hutton | Turner | 1-18-83 |

DATE _____

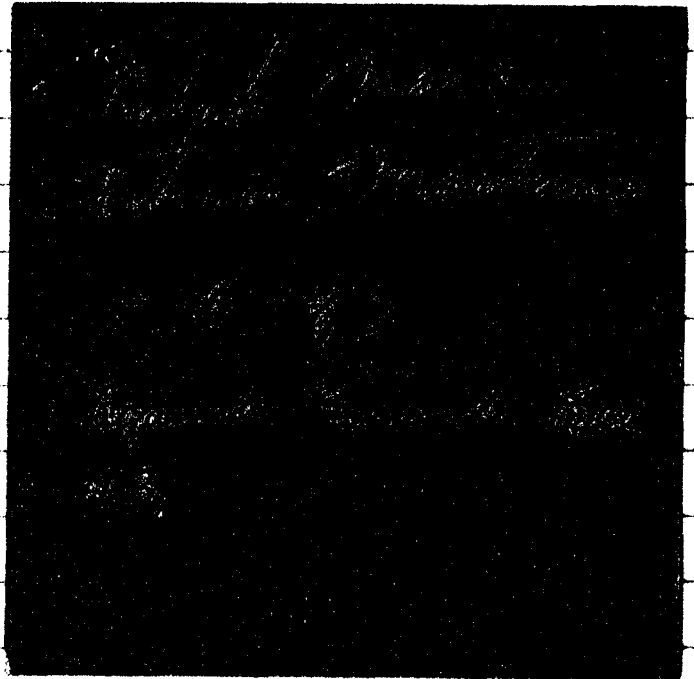
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Exhibit 10
Jan. 21, 1983

Jan 18, 1983

I am very much against Senate
Bill # 43 introduced into the legislature
by Chet Blaylock.

Elnise Thuncker
Lunenburg, ME 59542



C. Thicket #11
Jan. 21, 1983

Petition Against S.B. 43

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3. It will require an application for isolated status be submitted each year that is a tedious, time-consuming and difficult process that could be stopped at the whim of the County Superintendent of Schools, the County Commissioners or the State Superintendent of Schools.

Please defeat the bill!

| | NAME | ADDRESS | DATE |
|----|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| #1 | Norman Hells | Box 146 Turner | 18 Jan |
| 2 | James Shate | Box 67 " | 18 Jan. |
| 3 | Kirk Larver | Box 174 Duane, Montana | 1-18-83 |
| 4 | Doni K Justice | Box 116, Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 5 | LeAnn Fisher | P.O. Box 131, Turner, Montana | 1/18/83 |
| 6 | Sue Gillespie | Box 87, Turner, MT | 1-18-83 |
| 7 | Wilmae Van Valkenburg | Box 68, Turner | 1-18-83 |
| 8 | Valerie Van Voort | Box 172, Turner, MT | 1-18-83 |
| 9 | Myra E. Anderson | SR Box 39 Hogeland, MT | 1-18-83 |
| 10 | Connie E. Anderson | Rt. 1 Box 29 Hogeland, MT | 1-18-83 |
| 11 | Deirda V. Johnson | Box 151, Turner, MT | 1/18/83 |
| 12 | Kathy B. Damer | Box 161 Hogeland | 1-18-83 |
| 13 | Len Shley | Rt. 1 Box 2 | 1-18-83 |
| 14 | Myra Van Valkenburg | Turner, MT | " |
| 15 | Paul Van Voort | Turner, MT | " |
| 16 | Walter H. Smith | Turner, MT | 1-18-83 |
| 17 | Paul Warner | Turner, MT | 1-18-83 |
| 18 | Don Harmon | RR 1 Box 24 Turner, Mont | 1-18-83 |
| 19 | James Raylaton | Box 115 Turner | 1-19-83 |
| 20 | Noderick M. Thronson | Box 151 Turner | 1-19-83 |
| 21 | Edith Y. Stetson | Box 63 Turner, MT 69542 | 1-19-83 |
| 22 | Martha J. Larver | Rt. 1 Box 28, Turner | 1-19-83 |
| 23 | James Raylaton | Box 115 Turner, MT | 1-19-83 |
| 24 | Shirley Ann Keller | Box 62 Turner | 1-19-83 |
| 25 | Robert McConnell | Rt. 1 Box 9 Turner | 1-19-83 |
| 26 | Keith B. Walker | Rt. Box 46 Hogeland | 1-19-83 |
| 27 | David N. Walker | Rt. Box 46, Hogeland | 1-19-83 |
| 28 | Peggy Ann Thronson | Rt. Box 19 Turner | 1-19-83 |
| 29 | Ray Mattheys | RR Box 54 Hogeland | 1-19-83 |
| 30 | James E. Gunkel | Box 7 Hogeland, MT | 1-19-83 |
| 31 | William H. Ammer | RR Box 14 Turner, MT | 1-19-83 |
| 32 | Donald E. Sprick | Turner, MT | 1/19/83 |
| 33 | Robert J. Smith | Turner, MT | 1/20/83 |
| 34 | Randy Foy | Turner, MT | 1/20/83 |
| 35 | Ronald Foy | Turner | 1/20/83 |

NAME

ADDRESS

DATE

36. Susan Fry
37. Suzanne Fry

Turner
Turner MA.

1/20/83
1/20/83

NAME: Richard Boese DATE: 1-21-83

ADDRESS: Prickly-mt.

PHONE: 773-5632

REPRESENTING WHOM? Breley School Board - Mayor - City Council

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? ✓

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: DON WALDRON DATE: 1/21/83

ADDRESS: 2385 FLYNN LANE, MISSOULA, MT. 59803

PHONE: 728-5626 - OFFICE 543-4795 RES

REPRESENTING WHOM? HELLGATE Elem. DIST #4

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 95 Forest Funds

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ✓ AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS:

Will have material to hand out
when given any opportunity to speak.
Two sets attached -

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

Exhibit #12
January 21, 1983

January 1983
Don Waldron

FOREST RESERVE MONIES

How to Figure Impact to a Given County

Total forest monies recieved by County + by 3

(1/3 to school; 2/3 to county roads) gives total to county school fund.

County school fund forest monies + county mill dollar amount.

Example: Lincoln County in 1980

School forest fund = 819,807.53 + mill value 29,383.58 = 27.991 mills.

The proposed legislation would use the 27.991 mill savings to reduce the following county wide school levies.

County wide levies:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|---------------|
| General school | 25 mills | |
| High School | 15 mills | |
| H.S. Transportation | 3.360 | |
| Elem. Teachers' | | |
| Retirement & Soc. Sec. | 18.370 | → 28.69 mills |
| H.S. Teachers' | | |
| Retirement & Soc. Sec. | 6.960 | |

Suggested new law would reduce levies. Balance (if any) would be retained in reserve for future low years.

In Missoula County, the present year would amount to a 1.26 mills savings to reduce county levies.

Exhibit #11
Jan. 21, 1983

FEDERAL LAW: NATIONAL FOREST FUNDS

16 USCS-500

:500. PAYMENT AND EVALUATION OF RECEIPTS TO STATE FOR SCHOOLS AND
ROADS: MONEYS RECEIVED: PROJECTIONS OF REVENUES AND ESTIMATED PAYMENTS

On and after May 23, 1908, twenty-five percentum of all moneys received during any fiscal year from each national forest shall be paid, at the end of such year, by the Secretary of the Treasury to the State in which such national forest is situated, to be expended as the State Legislature may prescribe for the benefit of the public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which such national forest is situated:*

PROVIDED, that when any national forest is in more than one State or county, the distributive share to each from the proceeds of such forest shall be proportional to its area therein. In sales of logs, ties, poles, posts, cordwood, pulpwood, and other forest products the amounts made available for schools and roads by this section shall be based upon the stumpage value of the timber. Beginning October 1, 1976, the term.....

* Emphasis added

NAME: Marlene J. Vandolah DATE: 1/21/83
ADDRESS: Box 124 Willow Creek, Mt.
PHONE: 285-6698
REPRESENTING WHOM? Willow Creek School Dist 15 & Taxpayers
APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: S.B. 43
DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? ☒

COMMENTS: In the contents of S.B. 43 are
some untruths, which have no real base
at all. There is no one ever suffered
in the educational process at Willow
Creek High School, by fact it is just
the opposite they have done well in
all fields & are competing in
metropolitan cities all the over the United
States. We in Willow Creek feel it would
do nothing but raise our taxes, take a
\$21,000 payroll from our town and our
students would not get any better, and
probably not as good basic education.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Fred Chouinard DATE: 1/21/23

ADDRESS: Box 1412 Willow Creek

PHONE: 285-3144

REPRESENTING WHOM? Willow Creek

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB-43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? ☒

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Gary Steuerwald DATE: 1- 83

ADDRESS: Helew

PHONE: 449-3167

REPRESENTING WHOM? OPI

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: _____

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? ✓

COMMENTS: _____

Removes 4.6 million from the
Foundations Program.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

(This sheet to be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: Will Brooke DATE: 1/21/83

ADDRESS: Helen A

PHONE: 442-3420

REPRESENTING WHOM? MT. STOCK GROUPS / MT. WOLF GROUPS

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 43

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? X _____

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Bill Donahue DATE: 1/21/83

ADDRESS: School Dist NO. 3

PHONE: 822-4851

REPRESENTING WHOM? SUPERIOR School District NO. 3

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 95

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: School District NO. 3 states that
Federal money paid for Forest Reserve timber
sales should not be tied to the state
Foundation Program.

The intent of the 1908 Federal Law was
to relieve the property tax of the district in
which the forest timber was located. The
intent of this law is not being carried out.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

Exhibit # 13
Jan 21 1913

| | | |
|----|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Yellowstone | 31.44 |
| 2 | Bozeman | 29.00 |
| 3 | Butte | 19.60 |
| 4 | Shelby | 17.00 |
| 5 | Boise | 16.53 |
| 6 | Richland | 11.82 |
| 7 | Big Horn | 11.17 |
| 8 | Liberty | 9.24 |
| 9 | Toole | 8.14 |
| 10 | Massachusetts | 6.62 |
| 11 | Roosevelt | 6.45 |
| 12 | Phillips | 6.13 |
| 13 | Blaine | 4.80 |
| 14 | Chauteau | 4.74 |
| 15 | Treasure | 4.49 |
| 16 | Petrolem | 4.40 |
| 17 | McCone | 4.26 |
| 18 | Glacier | 4.23 |
| 19 | Golden Valley | 4.14 |
| 20 | Centfield | 3.94 |
| 21 | Judith Basin | 3.69 |
| 22 | Carter | 3.62 |
| 23 | Pondera | 3.52 |
| 24 | Prairie | 3.39 |
| 25 | Carbon | 3.37 |
| 26 | Valley | 2.87 |
| 27 | Daniel | 2.83 |
| 28 | Teton | 2.76 |

state average
is 2.80 A/capita

Montana aspen forest Counties - Ranked by value per capit.

| Rank Order | County | FY '82 Mill Value per capita (\$/person) | Rank order in Forest Receipts |
|------------|--------|--|-------------------------------|
|------------|--------|--|-------------------------------|

| | | | |
|----|-------------|------|----|
| 1 | Ravalli | 1.97 | 11 |
| 2 | Deer Lodge | 1.06 | 20 |
| 3 | Castroville | 1.11 | - |
| 4 | Silver Bow | 1.25 | 22 |
| 5 | Mineral | 1.26 | 6 |
| 6 | Lewistown | 1.27 | 7 |
| 7 | Gallatin | 1.33 | 13 |
| 8 | Lake | 1.38 | 10 |
| 9 | Park | 1.38 | 12 |
| 10 | Custer | 1.40 | - |
| 11 | Flathead | 1.54 | 2 |
| 12 | Jefferson | 1.55 | 15 |
| 13 | Missoula | 1.64 | 4 |
| 14 | Powell | 1.65 | 5 |
| 15 | Fergus | 1.70 | 20 |
| 16 | Yellowstone | 1.82 | - |
| 17 | Lincoln | 1.84 | 1 |
| 18 | Beaverhead | 1.87 | 9 |
| 19 | Granite | 1.96 | 8 |
| 20 | Broadwater | 2.18 | 20 |
| 21 | Sanders | 2.23 | 3 |
| 22 | Sweetgrass | 2.27 | 18 |
| 23 | Wheatland | 2.41 | 31 |
| 24 | Hill | 2.49 | - |
| 25 | Stillwater | 2.49 | 21 |
| 26 | Dawson | 2.54 | - |
| 27 | Madison | 2.61 | 14 |
| 28 | Meagher | 2.66 | 10 |

state average
2.80 \$/capita

Top 15 Counties in FY 82 Forest Receipts

| Rank | County | 1/3 of Forest Receipts to Schools | FY 82 Mill Value per capita | Forest Receipts |
|------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Lincoln | 634,328 | 1.84 | 1,902,984 |
| 2 | Elmhead | 229,579 | 1.54 | 519,000 |
| 3 | Sandwich | 101,304 | 2.23 | 86,600 |
| 4 | Missoula | 69,905 | 1.64 | 76,016 |
| 5 | Powell | 58,781 | 1.65 | 6,958 |
| 6 | Mineral | 56,562 | 1.26 | 3,675 |
| 7 | Lewis & Clark | 31,819 | 1.27 | 43,039 |
| 8 | Granite | 27,724 | 1.96 | 2,700 |
| 9 | Beaverhead | 25,797 | 1.87 | 8,186 |
| 10 | Lake | 24,437 | 1.38 | 19,056 |
| 11 | Ravalli | 21,397 | .97 | 22,496 |
| 12 | Park | 21,384 | 1.38 | 12,869 |
| 13 | Gallatin | 16,131 | 1.33 | 42,865 |
| 14 | Madison | 15,884 | 2.61 | 5,448 |
| 15 | Jefferson | 10,347 | 1.55 | 7,049 |

Subtotal \$ 1,455,409

328,707

(42%)

Total (all 34 counties) 1,522,094

give priority to areas affected by mineral development. Some energy-rich counties never see any money from the school equalization fund, according to Barbara Kennedy, planner for Custer and Powder River counties.

In a 1981 opinion, Attorney General Mike Greely said Montana should comply with the federal law and come up with some way of determining if those areas are given priority in the distribution of the royalties.

Forest Receipts

Final-payments were made to Montana counties by the U. S. Forest Service for their share of income from forest receipts.

Total payments for the fiscal 1982 revenue are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Beaverhead | \$ 77,390 |
| Broadwater | 17,936 |
| Carbon | 27,476 |
| Carter | 7,645 |
| Cascade | 5,178 |
| Chouteau | 888 |
| Deer Lodge | 10,259 |
| Fergus | 2,745 |
| Lincoln | 2,052,984 |
| Madison | 47,652 |
| Meagher | 18,731 |
| Mineral | 169,686 |
| Missoula | 209,716 |
| Park | 64,153 |
| Pondera | 3,083 |
| Powder River | 29,114 |
| Flathead | 868,737 |
| Gallatin | 48,392 |
| Glacier | 829 |
| Golden Valley | 685 |
| Granite | 83,173 |
| Jefferson | 31,040 |
| Judith Basin | 8,600 |
| Lake | 73,312 |
| Lewis and Clark | 95,457 |
| Powell | 176,344 |
| Ravalli | 64,190 |
| Rosebud | 8,196 |
| Sanders | 304,001 |
| Silver Bow | 11,256 |
| Stillwater | 15,936 |
| Sweet Grass | 23,208 |
| Teton | 6,794 |
| Wheatland | 1,484 |
| Total | \$ 4,566,283 |

Forest service revenue is from timber sales, grazing fees, land use fees, recreation charges, utility fees, mineral revenues, and admission and user fees.

Montana counties are directed by state law to distribute the receipts to schools and roads.

County News

FLATHEAD county commissioners' decision to build a courtroom in Courthouse East contrary to Kalispell zoning regulations has city officials pondering their next move. State law gives public agencies authority to ignore local zoning regulations when using a facility for public use, but the city notes the county has not obtained a building permit. On that basis the city issued a stop-work order.

ROOSEVELT county and the Fort Peck Indian Tribes signed an agreement to form a county-wide solid waste district.

MISSOULA county's executive board of the Coalition for Local Government Study voted to proceed with designing a consolidated city-county government. If the plan proceeds sufficiently, the question will be put to city and county voters next November.

BIG HORN county hopes to include a solar-assisted heat recovery system when spring construction starts on the county's \$1.3 million hospital remodeling project. The system will be the first of its kind. The county has applied to the Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation for a \$225,000 grant to help with installation.

LIBERTY county commissioners favor a proposed Tiber Dam hydroelectric plant because of probable increased tax revenues for the county and for the city of Chester.

LINCOLN county voters will decide in April whether or not they want a countywide anti-pornography ordinance.

RICHLAND county commissioners have decided to expand the county's law enforcement center to relieve overcrowding.

DATE: 1/21/83

ADDRESS: Helena

PHONE: 442-2180

REPRESENTING WHOM? MSBVA

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 95

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: W. P. Hooper DATE: 1/21/83

ADDRESS: Box 118

PHONE: (406) 722-3381

REPRESENTING WHOM? H. School Dist. #2

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 95

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: The Federal Law is clear. Monies
are to go to "the common school districts within
the county where the forests are situated."
These are not meant to be deducted from
Foundation Program allocations. These
monies are "in lieu of taxes" in areas
where most 70's of the land is non-taxable
public owned.

I do hope has implemented Federal Law
in the correct manner.

Thank you.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Robert M. Bonis DATE: 1/21/83

ADDRESS: Box 117 Frenchtown, Mont

PHONE: 626-5762

REPRESENTING WHOM? Frenchtown School Dist #40

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: No. 95

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

January 21, 1983

Montana Education Association
1232 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601
Telephone 406-442-4250

SB 95 - OPPONENT

To be consistent with our support for SB 94 - increasing the 40-mill county levy to 55 mills - we must oppose SB 95. We support increased funding for the financial support of educational equality.

If additional revenue due mainly to oil and coal valuation is to be used for equalization for all Montana students, then revenues from valuation of our Western forests should be treated in the same manner. To treat Federal Forest Reserve Money differently would be most unfair.

We strongly recommend that 33 1/3% of these moneys continue to be deposited in the common school fund for equalization purposes.

Owen Nelson
Montana Education Association

NAME: Richard L. Webb DATE: 1-21-83

ADDRESS: Box 308, ST. Regis, MT 59866

PHONE: 649-2311

REPRESENTING WHOM? St. Regis Public Schools

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: S.B. 95

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.