

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 5, 1985

The meeting of the Appropriations Committee was called to order by Chairman Bardanouve on March 5, 1985 at 11:35 a.m. in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present except Representatives Bradley, Miller, Rehberg and Winslow, who were absent.

(Tape 8:A:000)

HOUSE BILL 565: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY TO REFURBISH HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKERS AND TO ADD HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKERS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

Representative Fritz, sponsor of the bill, told the committee the existing markers are almost 50 years old. A few new signs have been added by the Highway Department from time to time. The markers are beginning to show signs of age, wear, and tear. This bill will bring the system up-to-date. Representative Fritz said he feels that since tourism is the second leading industry in Montana, it is most fitting to appropriate this money for this purpose.

PROPONENTS:

Robert Archibald (035), Director, Montana Historical Society, supports the bill (EXHIBIT 1).

Dr. Carroll Van West (060), historical consultant, Helena, supports the bill (EXHIBIT 2).

Brenda Schye (075), Montana Arts Advocacy, supports the bill (EXHIBIT 3).

Richard Shope (085), Helena architect, supports the bill. His father was a graphic artist who helped design the original signs.

John Wilson (119), Administrator, Montana Promotion Division, Department of Commerce, said marketing research shows history is one of the reasons tourists come to Montana and one of the things they enjoy when they get here.

Gene Huntington (147), Administrative Assistant, Governor's office, said this money is the last of the available federal revenue sharing money. To receive these funds, the federal government requires a public notice and public hearing. He said he worked with the Chairman and Judy Rippingale, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, to set up this hearing.

Don Harriott (158), Administrator, Engineering Division,
Department of Highways, supports House Bill 565.

Opponents: None.

Committee Discussion:

Representative Ernst asked for what is this money earmarked. Tom Crosser (165), Lead Analyst, Office of Budget and Program Planning, said this money is a remnant of the old Revenue Sharing program that came to the state. The state used to use these funds for the permissive program of public school support which the federal government eliminated. The money hasn't been used until now because the technical procedures on the hearing process were not adhered to; therefore, the federal agency controlling the old revenue sharing funds has not released them to the state. Basically, they are available for anything other than lobbying efforts, as long as they relate to government financed programs.

Representative Moore (183), asked if the money will be used primarily to refurbish existing signs. Tom Crosser said this is the absolute priority. Signs on the interstate highways will be at rest areas.

Representative Nathe asked if this money can be used to identify mountain ranges. Tom Crosser said the first priority will be for refurbishing existing signs. If monies are left over, it will be used to create new signs using the format of existing signs. He said in discussion with the Department of Commerce, there is no reason why the new signs need to be limited strictly to historical sites.

Representative Swift (224) asked if there is assurance these monies will be forth-coming in the new biennium. Chairman Bardanoue explained it will be the last monies available, and it has been appropriated to Montana, but because it did not go through the advertising procedures for a public hearing, it was not released last session.

Representative Fritz closed on his bill. He said some of the existing historical markers do point out geographical features such as on U.S. 2, the Sweet Grass Hills and on Highway 12, the Crazy Mountains.

E X E C U T I V E A C T I O N :

Representative Thoft made a motion that House Bill 565 DO PASS. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 12 p.m.


FRANCIS BARDANOUVE, Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL

APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date March 5, 1985

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
BARDANOUE, FRANCIS (CHAIR)	X		
DONALDSON, GENE (VICE CHAIR)	X		
BRADLEY, DOROTHY		X	
CONNELLY, MARY ELLEN	X		
ERNST, GENE	X		
HAND, BILL	X		
LORY, EARL	X		
MANUEL, REX	X		
MENAHAN, WILLIAM	X		
MILLER, RON		X	
MOORE, JACK	X		
NATHE, DENNIS	X		
PECK, RAY	X		
QUILICI, JOE	X		
REHBERG, DENNIS		X	
SPAETH, GARY	X		
SWIFT, BERNIE	X		
THOFT, BOB	X		
WALDRON, STEVE	X		
WINSLOW, CAL		X	

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 5,

19 35

MR. **SPEAKER**

We, your committee on **APPROPRIATIONS**

having had under consideration **HOUSE** Bill No. **565**

FIRST **WHITE**
_____ reading copy (_____)
color

APPROPRIATING MONEY TO REFURBISH HIGHWAY HISTORICAL MARKERS

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE** Bill No. **565**

DO PASS

3/5/85

ARCHIBALD

Testimony - HB565 "An Act appropriating money for the refurbishment, improvement, replacement or addition of Montana's historical highway marker system and providing for an immediate effective date.

From: Montana Historical Society, Robert Archibald

This legislation will appropriate \$190,525 of Federal Revenue Sharing monies for refurbishment of, and additions to, Montana's historical highway marker system. The project will be a cooperative undertaking between the Department of Highways, Department of Commerce and the Montana Historical Society over a three year period.

Montana's existing highway markers, commonly known as the "Fletcher Signs" were erected in the 1930's and 1940's. Text for the signs were written by Bob Fletcher and illustrated by artist "Shorty" Shope. These signs are an important historic resource in their own right and are fondly viewed by tourists and Montanans alike. The first priority of this project will be to repair, refurbish or recreate the existing signs as written by Fletcher and illustrated by Shope. The signs have a Montana flavor which should not be tampered with. Many of these signs have been vandalized, weather worn or destroyed. It is our plan to have them refurbished well in advance of our upcoming Centennial.

Depending on how far we can stretch the available funds we will develop new texts and signs which will reflect thematic and geographic balance. All new sign placement will be planned for existing pull out areas where right-of-way will not have to be acquired and access is available. All new signage will

use the same format as the existing Fletcher/Shope signs.

Refurbishment of the Fletcher/Shope signs will protect an important element of Montana's heritage. New signage, if possible with available funds, will create a legacy for the future. As a whole, this project will add to the enjoyment of Montana travelers, promote tourism and is a uniquely appropriate way to celebrate 100 years of statehood.

The Montana Historical Society supports HB565.

Exhibit # 2

3/5/85

VAN WEST

I am Dr. Carroll Van West, a historical consultant from Helena. In 1984, under contract with the State Historic Preservation Office of the Montana Historical Society, I traveled throughout Montana, looking at its historic places.

In all, I traveled approximately 20,000 miles.

During these travels, I noticed the poor condition of many of the original highway historical markers, conceived and executed by Shorty Shope and Bob Fletcher in the 1940s. The signs not only tell tourists about important places in Montana history--they also remind Montanans of our rich heritage.

In themselves, the Shope/Fletcher markers are important and valuable historic artifacts. Preserving these signs, and adding new markers along the state interstate system, will be of great service to the historical education of Montanans today and in the future.

3/5/85

Schye

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Brenda Schye Committee On Approp
 Address North Star Rte, Glasgow Date 3-5
 Representing Montana Arts Advocacy Support X
 Bill No. HB 565 Oppose _____
 Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments: I represent the Montana Arts Advocacy, a
 1. broad cross section of Montanans who are committed to
 the development of our state's cultural resources. A significant
 aspect of that general goal is to increase awareness
 2. of our state's past.

The fact that our state has a rich history
 is not disputed by anyone. But much of the
 3. value of that heritage lies in peoples' awareness
 of it. That is true ^{in part} for Montana citizens as it
 4. is for people visiting from out of state.

The historical markers have great value
 not only for the information they present, but
 they are also a statement of pride in our heritage.
 As we approach Montana's 100th birthday, we
 hope you will see fit to celebrate by renovating
 and hopefully adding to our historical ^{preservation} markers.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

VISITORS' REGISTER

APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HOUSE BILL 565

DATE March 5, 1985

SPONSOR Fritz

NAME (please print)	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Em Harriott	Highway Dept	X	
Robert Johnson	MT. Hist. Soc.	X	
Erin West	Helena	X	
Marcella Shertis	Helena MT	✓	
Richard Shupe	Helena	✓	
Brenda Sedge	Mont Cert Advocacy	✓	
John Wilson	MT. Dept. of Commerce	✓	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.