MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
50TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The meeting of the Natural Resouces Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Swift on January 26, 1987 at 8:15 a.m. in Room 317 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with Sens. Boylan and Story and Rep. Spaeth arriving after the roll call. Also in attendance were Carl Schweitzer from the LFA, Karen Volstedt of OBPP, and Denise Thompson, secretary. (38:A:001)

STATE LANDS:
(38:A:017)Mr. Mike Atwood, timber manager for Brand S Lumber Company, Livingston, testified for the Montana Eastside Forest Practices Company. Mr. Atwood stated that he supported the Department of State Lands acquiring the necessary funding from the general fund to maintain their Timber Harvest Program. There are many advantages. For every $\$ 1$ spent to administer this program, an average of $\$ 4$ is returned to the general fund. A portion of that is then paid to the school trust fund to help pay for education in Montana. The members of the company are concerned about the continued erosion of forest land base. They feel that the state has an obligation to properly manage state owned forest lands, for the future income to the trust account.

He stated some reservations on the hazard reduction portion of the program existed (HB 328) but they supported the program with that exception.
(A:045)Mr. Mark Simonich, Forester for F. H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company, stated he also supported the department. A reduction in timber sales will permanently cripple the forest products industry in the state. He stated that we could continue a quality education if this program is supported because of the revenue that is generated by it. A high state timber sale program is good for Montana. It provides needed forest management, revenue to the school trust fund, and it helps to continue to provide jobs in the private sector. These are direct benefits to the people of Montana(Exhibit 1).
(A:081) Mr. Al Kington, consultant forester, stated he was concerned about appropriations to keep programs such as timber harvest going in the state. You can't turn it on and turn it off. He was satisfied with the job the Department of State Lands has done in operating programs in the past.

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All available contracts were sold, where at the national forest service levels, you don't always see that occur. Any reduction in the program will not only lose revenue, it will give an accessibility problem to the Department of state Lands with contractors and timber purchasers. He stated that he supported the major part of the request, but he has some reservations on the slash portion and will address that in another meeting.
(A:109) Mr. Vince Heier, timber manager of Idaho Pole Company, Bozeman, supported the Department of State Lands' request for funding for their budget to keep the harvest level at 50 million feet. He wanted to appeal as a concerned timber manager, father, and taxpayer. There is no other area of resource management, that offers the benefits on a perpetual basis as does forestry and timber management. There is no other time in Montana's history when it has been more important to harvest our renewable resource and bolster the trust fund which provides money to our school systems.

Three things would be accomplished by funding the proposed harvest:

1. The state would receive a much needed transfusion of funds into the trust account. This would yield more interest resulting in actual dollars for our schools.
2. More jobs would be created in the timber industry which in turn provides more taxes to the General Fund (helping everyone).
3. Our renewable resource would be utilized properly by replacing old "non-yielding" stands with younger growing stands that would be providing the "interest for the future."
(A:153) Mr. Don Allen representing the Montana Wood Products Association stated support of the Department of State Lands' request. The wood products industry is the third largest industry in the state. There is a real need to have available as much timber from the public sector as possible because in the past the private lands have had to take the brunt of much of the timber sales with the uncertainties on public lands. So in future years, it is going to be more important to have that base available. He urged the committee accept the request of the department. It is important to the state's future and a key part of the total things that need to happen in a positive way in the next few years for the state's economy.

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## QUESTIONS:

(A:196) Carl Schweitzer, Senior Analyst, LFA asked how much the state sales make up of their entire need or use of timber. Mr. Kington stated about 10 percent.

Rep. Spaeth asked if this was funded out of RIT last time. Mr. Hemmer stated that this was funded out of Resource Development last time. Rep. Spaeth asked why it was not funded this time in the same manner. Mr. Hemmer said last time they went in with surplus, it was drained. He projects if the governor's budget is accepted, current level on Resource Development at the end of the biennium will be $\$ 3,000$. Rep. Spaeth asked if this program will increase the income of the state. Mr. Hemmer stated yes, this will bring in about $\$ 1$ million a year which would go into the permanent trust. Mr. Hemmer stated this would be over the long term rather than the short term. There are two lags involved: 1) the lag it takes between the time they sell it and the time it is harvested and paid to them; and 2) the lag from the time it goes into the permanent fund and the interest comes out.
(A:257)Senator Story suggested that money is made for general fund with this money and the return to the general fund has increased at a ratio of about 4 to 1. He did feel it should be tracked to make sure it does this. He also stated that many of these sections are surrounded by private sections that are next to them. When you can put a sale in conjunction with a private sale, you do a lot of good for everybody; the forest itself and the property owner. There are a lot of advantages of having a plan that encompasses the private land and the state land at the same time.
(A:339)Mr. Hemmer stated to the committee there would be no impact on the general fund the first year and maybe $\$ 250$ thousand the second year.

Mr. Allen said the shift which exists now is 60 percent state and private versus 40 percent federal and the shift has to revert back the other way.
(A:403)Sen. Smith felt we have to look at the long range, what it does to that local economy and how it will benefit the local school districts.

Sen. Story agreed with Sen. Smith. It is one of the few things that the state is doing that is making money.
(A: 463)Sen. Smith said it illustrates the short sightedness of the legislature. He thought that was what got us into a lot of trouble. If the harvest is halted, it will create

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less employment, there will be less people to pay into the Workman Comp fund, it will trickle down and affect every agency in state government.
(B:001) Rep. Spaeth stated he would like to have Mr. Hemmer look at alternatives that could fund this program prior to the issue reaching the full committee.

Sen. Smith also asked for ideas on what the consequences could be down the road if it wasn't approved and what it will do to the the industry as well as the state funding in the future. If we don't address this issue now, we will have more severe problems down the road. If we don't invest now, what will we have in the future.
(B:034) Mr. Hemmer referred to a question Mr. Schweitzer asked in a prior meeting regarding assessments. Mr. Schweitzer had suggested raising the assessments to also cover the one-third of the supplemental costs. Mr. Hemmer stated that was not considered in the interim committee because the supplemental process was down. That would take a change in substantive law. They raised the rate sufficiently last session with the understanding that this would last four years and we would not have to come in and look at it again. He has not brought anything in and does not intend to bring anything in because he felt he made a deal last session that he wouldn't be back discussing it for four years.

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (B:081)
Mr. Schweitzer explained the differences in the executive and LFA for the Central Management Program.

1. Attorney Position General Fund - Mr. Schweitzer stated there was a transfer from the Reclamation Division to this division which was a clerical position and when transferred, was changed to an attorney position. Therefore, the LFA did not consider this position.
2. Aircraft Maintenance
a. Fuel (Maintenance)
b. Proprietary Funds (fuel)

The LFA used the same inflation factor for regular auto fuel and applied it to aircraft fuel, the committee should consider using the executive budget.

Mr. Hemmer stated that Mr. Schweitzer felt the \$18,734 one-time maintenance costs for the major overhall should not be included in the base. Mr. Hemmer stated they seem to have one time costs occur every year.
3. Computer programming, the LFA gave more money in 1989 than the executive.
4. Computer Access Charge - Mr. Schweitzer stated that the charges were the Department of Administration's charges. He did not have the same information to build these in. Therefore, he felt the executive budget was correct here.
5. Twin Bridges Modification which the LFA considered as supplemental general funds for maintenance.
6. Additional federal funds were built into the budget by Mr. Schweitzer. Additional Resource Development funds were also over the executive.

Mr. Schweitzer stated that the private land owners should be paying for some the administrative costs for the fire suppression of their lands.
( $\mathrm{B}: 205$ ) Mr. Hemmer he did not disagree with Mr. Schweitzer except for two problems: 1) in resource development, are they able to use revenues derived from trust lands to support their administration; and 2) they haven't built in any of these costs when building their assessments for these.
(B:242) Mr. Hemmer spoke in reference to Item 1, the Attorney Position by saying there were two errors. First, the position that Mr. Schweitzer is speaking of is not $\$ 26,737$ general fund, that would be 80-20 federal funds-general fund. His point was, it was a current level position. He did transfer prior to the last session. During the last session it was brought before the subcommittee. The number of lawyers they had and the reason they had to have them. They were asking for one more at that time. They were open to the subcommittee that they had done this. The subcommittee was aware that they had done it.
(B:326) Sen. Smith moved that, with the changes just discussed, the committee except the executive budget. Rep. Manuel called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

Sen. Smith moved that item 2 (a) and (b) of the executive budget be accepted. Rep. Devlin called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

Sen. Smith moved that the executive budget be accepted for item 3, computer programming. The question was called. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

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Rep. Manuel moved to accept the executive budget on computer access charge. Sen. Smith called the question. the motion CARRIED unanimously.

Sen. Smith moved to accept the executive budget for item 5 MOD at Twin Bridges. Sen. Boylan called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously.
(39:A:024)Sen. Smith moved to accept number 6 (a) funding shifts with the provision that anything the department gets will be offset in the general fund. (Carl-take the executive figures and then put language in that says if they get more federal funds, they will have to reduce general fund.) Sen. Boylan called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

Sen. Boylan moved to accept the executive budget for item 6 (b) Resource Development. Rep. Spaeth called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

LAND ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM: (39:A:147)
Mr. Schweitzer reviewed the differences in this budget.

1. LFA used the 1986 current level.
2. Weed Control, the LFA did not consider because it is not part of current level.
3.\&4.The LFA did not include in the current level.
3. $\$ 1,426$ increase in minor tools. The LFA felt new people were put on board and currently should have all of their tools, the increase for tools should have dropped back and if all people were fully staffed, the base could be dropped back.

Mr. Hemmer referred to 3,4, and 5, stating he disagreed as the current level as he thought the department was asking for the additional monies to cover mailings. Additional certified letters were increasing and they would like to bill their gas and oil royalty payments. They may get royalty in a little sooner that way.

Sen. Story moved to accept the executive on item 2. Sen. Smith called the question. The motion carried unanimously.
(A:260) Rep. Spaeth moved to go with LFA on item 1. He felt that this is a large general fund agency and there needs to be some cuts somewhere.

Rep. Devlin asked what Mr. Hemmer would do if he had a 20 percent cut in Land Administration. Mr. Hemmer replied that

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with a 20 percent cut it would mean they would lay off 20 percent of their people and cut back their services.
(39:A:383)Rep. Devlin made a substitute motion to take 20 percent out of the general fund expenditures from current level.

There was a fifteen minute break. The meeting was resumed at 10:35 a.m. The discussion was postponed on this issue until the following day to give additional people the opportunity to come in and testify.

## RECLAMATION PROGRAM:

Mr. Schweitzer briefed the committee on the differences in the LFA and executive budgets for the Reclamation Program.

1. The LFA did not include $\$ 100,000$ from the reclamation Hard Rock Account because there was very little if any spent in 1986, it was not part of the current level base.
2. Legal Fees for the Northern Plains contested case hearing of $\$ 30,000$ in 1988 and $\$ 10,000$ in 1989 .
3. In equipment there was a difference of $\$ 4,550$ for office equipment that was not in the LFA current level.
4. Rule printing money for the coal and uranium money.
5. Water sampling was $\$ 9,000$ above current level.
6. Reclamation Program, the LFA looked at what was expended in 1986 and carried forward that level into 1989, all federal funds.
(A530)7. 2 MODs for 3 Hard Rock Specialists for approximately $\$ 85,000$ each fiscal year that has been recommended by the executive, entirely general fund.
7. One Mod for one clerical position for $\$ 17,400$ each fiscal year, federally funded. Mr. Hemmer stated he had withdrawn this modification.
(39:A:599) Rep. Manuel asked if RIT funds could be used to fund those three specialist positions. Karen Volstedt of the governor's budget office stated that they just took a long look at what they could use RIT funds for and tried to plug those funds in where they could to offset general fund. This would be a legitimate way to replace general fund.

Rep. Devlin asked about the three hard rock specialists. Where are they working, reclamation or hard rock. Mr.

Hemmer stated that they would be reviewing the hard rock applications and doing whatever necessary regarding environmental impact statements to get those through in a timely fashion. There are a lot of applications come in. They sit down with them, work it through, show them where they think they will have problems in the permitting. When they have a problem, they work through, how to solve it. He stated they help them comply with the laws and come out with a better project in a more timely fashion. The department has an increase of projects coming in and needs horsepower to work through those projects and get them up and moving.
(39:B:052) Sen. Smith asked Mr. Hemmer if the person that works with the mining companies was a specialist who understands all of the problems related to that development. Mr. Hemmer stated right now in that bureau he has all people who have worked in the industry before.
(39:B:083) Rep. Manuel moved that the executive on item 7 for three hard rock specialists, be recommended to the full committee.

Rep. Spaeth asked Mr. Hemmer if this were not allowed would it slow down the permitting process. He would not want to slow down any mining activity in the state. Mr. Hemmer said it would delay, he would divert all the resources he has towards not delaying, but he didn't feel he had sufficient resources that he could do that and still respond to the problems where he has no choice.

Rep. Devlin made a substitute motion to allow two hard rock specialists in the program.

Sen. Smith asked if the committee would give the industry a chance to come in and testify on this issue.

In turn, the two pending motions were withdrawn until after the industry people could testify.
(39:B:243) Rep. Manuel moved that the committee approve items 1 through 6 using the executive budget. Discussion brought Rep. Manuel, with Mr. Hemmer's agreement, to amend his motion to include that none of this money will go for research. Sen. Smith called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously.
(39:B:391) The committee returned to the substitute motion by Rep. Devlin for the 20 percent reduction in the Land Administration Program.

Rep. Spaeth asked if there were other funds that could be used to help manage those funds, and what will be lost or cut with that $\$ 22$ million source. Mr. Hemmer stated that

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basically he would lose three positions, possibly a 4 th position in vacancy savings. They would have to close all the offices that they have added to. You would lose services that are provided to the lessees right now, you would lose the ability to help with problems, and you will lose them being able to complying with the farm program.
(39:B:528) Sen. Smith stated that the legislature needs to be sure they do have the personnel to look at the lands and what should be put in.

Rep. Spaeth called the question. There was a roll call vote. Reps. Devlin and Swift and Sen. Story voted yes. Rep. Manuel and Spaeth and Sen. Smith voted no. The motion FAILED by a vote of 3 to 3 .

They reverted back to the original motion of Rep. Spaeth that the committee accept item 1, LFA. Sen. Smith called the question. Rep. Manuel voted no. The motion CARRIED.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT:
Mr. Schweitzer stated there was one difference in the capital projects area. The LFA didn't put any recommendation in current level for capital projects because these projects may change from year to year and the subcommittee should look at each capital outlay request on its own merit. This is financed with the resource development fund. There is no general fund in this program.

Mr. Hemmer said they have historically presented a list of projects. Any project that is approved under this is approved by the Land Board. They use this for problems that come up such as losing head gates on one of their projects etc. Rep. Manuel asked again if these were all allowed by the Land Board. Mr. Hemmer said that was correct. They can not spend any of that capital outlay money without authority of the Land Board. The Board is the one to actually approve it.

Rep. Spaeth moved to go with the executive budget. Rep. Devlin called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

## ADJOURNMEN'T:

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.


Rep. Bernie Swift, Cháirman

## DAILY ROLL CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

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| Senator Boylan | $\checkmark$ |  |  |
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| Personal Serv. | \$180, 350 | \$180,403 | \% (53) | \$180,310 | \$180,373 |  | \% (63) |
| Operating Exp. | 34,835 | 34,552 | 283 | 35,123 | 34,897 |  | 226 |
| Non-Operating | 58,000 | -0- | -0- | 78,000 | -0- |  | 78,000 |
| Total Exp. | \$ $=273,185$ | \$214,955 | \$58, $=230$ | \$293,483 | \$215, 270 |  | $\$ 78.163$ |
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ROLL CALL VOTE

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AGENCY/PROGRAM/CONTROL -- BUDGET WORKSHEET

REPORT
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PROGRAM : 25
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1400 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
1500 HEALTH INSURANCE
1600 VACANCY SAVINGS
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2022 SUPPLIES \& materials-inflation
2023 COMMUNICATIONS-INFLATION
2026 UTILITIES-INFLATION
2100 CONTRACTED SERVICES
2200 SUPPLIES \& materials
2300 COMMUNICATIONS
2400 travel
2500 RENT
2600 utilities
2700 REPAIR \& MAINTENANCE
total second level
total program
total program
01100 GENERAL FUND

## NATURAL, RESOURCES AND COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE GENERAL, FUND) BUDGET REDUCTIONS

| Fiscal | Fiscal |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1988 | 1989 |

## Department of Livestock

1. Rabies Control Program. There is $\$ 135,000$ general funds in the Ifs current level. 'The program is a discretionary program. 'The department uses the funds to eradicate skunks which test positive to rabies and are a threat to humans or livestock.

## Department of Agriculture

1. Environmental Management Division. The state's pesticide program could be eliminated and the responsibilities would be taken over by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The biemium budget for the program is $\$ 1,060,000$ general finite. If the legislature were to do away with the program then the fees which are collected by the department for pesticide regulations would likely be discontinued. The revenue from the fees is deposited into the general fund and for the biennium the estimated revenues would be $\$ 638,000$. Therefore the net general fund savings would be $\$ 21,000$.

2. Agriculture Marketing. Currently the department has a one person staff which promotes agricultural products other than wheat, beef, and pork. There also exists a Montana products promotion program in the Department of Commerce This propman could be eliminated and some of the activeties of this program could be performed by Commerce or the function could he left to the Wheat Research and Marketing l'rogram which uses grain check-off fees. The general fund saving would be $\$ 74,000$.

3. Crop Reporting. Currently the department has 4 positions which work with the US Department of Agriculture to provide facts and figures on agricultural activity in Montana. The state could pull out of the program and depend entirely on the information generated by the federal government and information developed by the Agricultural extension service. 'The general fund savings would be $\$ 114,500$.

57,200
57,300

## Department of Slate Lands

1. Slash Disposal Program. The state administers a slash disposit pogrom which fissures that limber slash is properly disposed. The program is funded 50 percent with general fund for a biennium cost of $\$ 124,000$. If the general fund
were eliminated there would still be program revenues to maintain a scaled back program. The state may want to consider increasing the fines and penalties for those individuals who are not properly disposing of slash and this may act as an incentive to properly handle the slash. $\$ 62,000 \$ \$ 62,000$
2. County Equalization. Eliminate the payment in lieu of taxes. 'This would be consistent with the tax exempt, treatment of state buildings.
3. Nursery Program. The state general fund support for the tree nursery program could be eliminated. The general fund savings would be $\$ 188,000$. There would still be $\$ 120,000 / \mathrm{yr}$ from nursery sales revenue to keep a scaled down nursery program going. 'The state could also look to private nurseries for needed replacement stock and to the universities for research.
4. Timber Sales. The 1985 legislature increased the state timber to be sold from 32 million board feet to 50 million board feet. In the 1989 biennium budget there are 8.0 FTE and $\$ 173,000$ general fund to continue the increased sales. The revenues from state timber sales is part of the school foundation finds. Because the state receives the revenues from the increased sales when the timber is cut and generally the timber is cut from one to three years after the sale, if the legislature were to eliminate the 8.0 FTE and reduce the general fund there would be minimal effect on the school foundation revenues in the 1989 biennium.

236,000
237,000


## Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

1. Water Adjudication. Currently the DNRC has approximately 38 FTE dedicated for water rights adjudication. The positins are in 9 regional offices around the state. The department is working with the State Water Court to adjudicate all the state's water rights. The legislature could reduce the staff to 12 and direct the staff to adjudicate river basins on a priority basis. This would lengthen the ( $($ time needed to adjudicate the entire state but there are certain river basins where there is greater local conflict over water rights and therefore should be adjudicated before oldies. If the legislature were to reduce the staff from 38 to 12 the general fund saving would be approximatell $\$ 1,500,000$.

750,000
750,000
2. Facility Siting. There are 5.0 F'LE which are financed with $\$ 358,000$ general fund. If the general fund for these poitins was eliminated the department would be able to maintain the positions if there was sufficient facility siting and environmental impact review work available. The genaral fund has been used for a safety net to insure that there would be a core staff for continuity.

## Department of Commerce

1. District Court. The state reimburses the local district courts for certain criminal costs. 'The statute directs the Department of Commerce to distribute the funds available. If the legislature appropriated any amount less than the $\$ 2,500,000$ per year in the IFA current level there would be a general fund savings.

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\$ 2,500,000 \quad \$ 2,500,000
$$

2. Business Assistance. Eliminate the Business Assistance Divísion. Working with industries considering Montana as a place to locate would be administered by local chambers of commoree and local governmental units. The assistance provided to small business would also have to be done by federal and local agencies.

697,800
681,600
3. Economic Policy and Research. Eliminate the program.

The censilis information the propram administers would still be available at university libraries. The staffing function to the Governor's Council on Economic Development and 'I'ransilion 'Iask Force would be eliminated. $236,000 \quad 234,000$
4. Indian Affairs. Eliminate the Indian Affairs Program. The serviees provided by the Indian Coordinator could be absorbed by other govermmental agencies.
$158,900 \quad 144,000$
T'otal Natural Resources Subcommittee


Good Morning. My name is Mark Simonich. I am a Forester for F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company. Stoltze has lumber manufacturing facilities in Dillon, Darby and Columbia Falls, Montana. I live in Dillon and have come here today to represent my employer.

During the last couple of years the National Forest Service has been publishing their draft and final Forest Plans. These plans, required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 are to guide the management activities of the forest service over the period of the next 10 to 15 years. Almost every single forest plan across the state of Montana is calling for a reduction in timber harvest. Those reductions range anywhere from a few percent up to $30 \%$ below historical sales over the past 10 years. This reduction in timber sales will permanently cripple the forest products industry in the state of Vontana.

Two years ago the state legislature saw fit to appropriate funding that allowed the Department of State Lands to increase their timber sale program from 32 million board feet to 50 million board feet annually. Ne are asking that you do the same this time.

State timber sales do not subsidize the timber industry. For each $\$ 1.00$ spent on timber sales almost $\$ 4.00$ is returned to the state. The revenue generated from the state timber sales goes into the school trust fund. The interest from this fund then is used to help our educational system. This could be likened to an Individual Retirement Account. If a person makes sizeable deposits to his account regularly hw will have a nice nest egg when he retires. Similarly if we can provide for regular, consistant large amounts of revenue for the school trust fund we can ensure
a higher source of funds for our education system in the future. This is not a quick fix solution to our budget problems but it can be a long term opportunitry.te continue offering a quality education.

In past years when the state had a 32 million b.f. harvest level, only a very small part of the harvest was done on the eastside. Two years ago the DSL committed to a 5 million b.f. sales program on the eastside as long as they could maintain a statewide program of 50 million b.f.. If the DSL does not get the necessary additional funding we most probably will lose the opportunity to compete for any state timber.

Please remember a high state timber sale program is good for Montana. It provides needed forest management, it provides reveme to the school trust fund and it helps to continue to provide jobs in the private sector. All of these are direct benefits to the people of Montana. Once again, I urge you to support the Department of State Lands timber budget proposal. Thank You.

Testimony
Vince Heier
January 26, 1987
I would like to introduce myself to the Committee, I am Vince Heier, Timber Manager of the Idaho Pole Company and I am also a Board Member of the Montana Wood.

I am here to give support for the Department of Lands' request for funding to maintain their timber budget and harvest levels.

I do not wish to reiterate fiacts and figures presented to you by the department heads and others, but I simply want to appeal to you in a common sense fashion as a timber manager, taxpayer, and a parent of school children.

There is no other area of resource management, save agriculture, that offers the benefits on a perpetual basis as does forestry and timber management.

There is no other time in Montana's history when it has been more important to harvest our renewable resource and bolster the trust fund which provides money to our schools systems.

Timber is a crop--an interest bearing savings account, if you will. And in my area of Montana, which is east of the divide, the timber is largely mature to over-mature. This is timber that is becoming increasingly less productive due to old age, insects and disease. The savings account is no longer providing "interest" because it is not growing at the rate younger and healthier stands would grow.

We should beat mother nature and fire to the punch by increasing or maintaining the harvesting of the overmature stands. Three things would be accomplished by funding the proposed harvest:

1. The state would receive a much needed transfusion of funds into the Trust Account. This would yield more interest resulting in actual dollars for our schools.
2. More jobs would be created in the timber industry which in turn provides more taxes to the General Fund (helping all of us).
3. And last, our renewable resource would be utilized properly by replacing old "non yielding" stands with younger growing stands that would be providing the "interest for the future."

I urge you to listen to Gary and to let the forestry personel help the state out.

I know of no other resouce or revenue idea that offers the direct benefits that proper timber management on state trust lands offers.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

MARKLE'S INCORPORATED
P.O. Box 71 - Phone (406) 228.9365

Glasgow, Montana 59230

Ed Smith
Senate
Capitol Station
Helena, Mt 59604
Subject: Eliminating Business Assistance Div Dept of Commerce

Ed:
This letter is in support of your initiative to eliminate the Busipess Assistance Div. of the Montana Dept of Commerce at substantial savings to the State.

The lack of substantive goals, other than the process itself, and a consistent failure to make any offort to ammend the business cliante in Montana, renders the division just another dimension of the problem. What we need are solutions.

You have successfully identified a Pork Barrel, we can do without and I strongly subport your reffort. Change the environemnt and assistance won't be necessary at State expense.

Please let your committee know I support your action.



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