#### MINUTES

# MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: By DIANA WYATT CHAIR, on February 14, 1991, at 3:00 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

#### Members Present:

Diana Wyatt, Chair (D) Jessica Stickney, Vice-Chair (D) Joe Barnett (R) Arlene Becker (D) Vivian Brooke (D) Dave Brown (D) Brent Cromley (D) Paula Darko (D) Tim Dowell (D) Budd Gould (R) Stella Jean Hansen (D) Harriet Hayne (R) Ed McCaffree (D) Tom Nelson (R) Jim Rice (R) Sheila Rice (D) Richard Simpkins (R) Norm Wallin (R)

Staff Present: Bart Campbell, Legislative Council Lois O'Connor, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

#### HEARING ON HB 106

#### Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. HARRINGTON, House District 68, Butte, stated HB 106 is a county option gambling bill proposed for home rule counties. Many local governments would have serious problems if it weren't for the gambling they now have. HB 106 is a local option bill that gives people the right to vote for something they want. This bill applies to two counties; Butte-Silverbow and Deer Lodge-Anaconda. Amendments to extend it to all counties would be looked on favorably. HB 106 can help local governments raise additional funds. It will be a vote of the people.

#### Proponents' Testimony:

Mark Staples, Montana Tavern's Association, stated the Association has historically opposed local option gambling and taxes; however, it believes that people have the right to choose if they want gambling in their communities. Since the Democrats have reversed their position on local option taxes, the Association is reversing its position on local option gambling.

REP. PAVLOVICH supported HB 106. As a tavern owner, people have the right to choose if they want local option gambling.

#### Opponents' Testimony:

Joe Roberts, Don't Gamble With the Future, stated local option gambling is not the way to fund local governments. If they adopt local option legislation, with no statewide control or enforcement, wide-open gambling is given to all seven Indian reservations in Montana. Because of the 1988 federal law, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act; whatever law is allowed by the state, even a local option tax, is thereby granted to every Indian reservation in the State. HB 106 does not restrict any county in the state from adopting selfgoverning powers, and thereby, allows any form of gambling that the voters choose to have. This bill will not be local option gambling very long. It will lead to wide-open, unregulated state gambling.

Harley Warner, Montana Association of Churches, said the Association is opposed to the expansion of gambling anywhere in the state.

#### Questions From Committee Members:

REP. BROOKE asked Mark Staples to provide her with a list of the members of the Montana Tavern's Association. Mr. Staples replied he would.

REP. S. J. HANSEN asked what position the Democrats were changing. Mr. Staples replied the Democrats have been opposed to sales taxes, and currently sales tax on a local level, are flooding the Senate. REP. HANSEN stated Democrats have opposed sales taxes because they oppose the kinds presented to them. They have always supported the local option taxes.

REP. McCAFFREE asked if HB 106 was an open gambling bill. REP. HARRINGTON stated it is whatever gambling that is put before the vote of the people.

REP. BECKER asked REP. HARRINGTON if on Page 1, Sections 2 and 3, a county chooses to go local option, whatever gambling choices they make, will all be regulated, taxed and licensed. He said yes. If the committee chooses the control be with the state, he has no problem with it.

REP. NELSON asked if HB 106 passes, will the rest of the state remain the same if no other county does the local option gambling. REP. HARRINGTON said yes. The local governments must vote if they want local option gambling. REP. NELSON asked if the bill must be amended since this would throw off the yoke of the state control. REP. HARRINGTON stated if the counties want the Attorney General's office to control the local option gambling, then the bill would have to be amended.

REP. D. BROWN asked Joe Roberts if his organization opposes all gambling bills, what is his organization doing to support other economic development in the state. Mr. Roberts said the concern of the organization is gambling and where the state is going with it: the increasing casinoization, the changes that have been brought about in the business climate of the state, the image presented to make us lose tourism rather than gain it. The social and enforcement costs of local option gambling are a loser. REP. BROWN asked if his organization was a single interest, without regard for the impacts of that position on anything else. Mr. Roberts stated they are very interested in the well being of the state both economically and socially. The state has much to offer to its citizens and prospective tourists. Tourism should be offered to obtain funds. Gambling gives a negative image to the state.

### Closing by Sponsor:

REP. HARRINGTON stated when people in his community need assistance, they turn to the local establishments for help. Give local governments the right to vote if they do or do not want local option gambling. This includes the Indian reservations. They are citizens and have just as much right to vote for local option taxes as anyone else. The churches also use a form of gambling, such as bingo, to support their needs. The people know what they are doing, and they are not going to go to excess on gambling.

#### **HEARING ON HB 536**

#### Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. BRADLEY, House District 79, Bozeman, stated HB 536 is enabling legislation to allow County Commissioners to decide what levels and types of services they want from a fire service area. It parallels legislation already passed out of the Local Government committee to allow this for fire tax districts but HB 536 addresses a different tax code. Funds in fire service areas may be used for emergency medical services, but only when they are related to the prevention and suppression of fire. This must be clarified. HB 536 allows the County Commissioner to make the choice in letting the emergency medical response people know their obligations and responsibilities.

#### Proponents' Testimony:

Bret Haggerty, Rae Volunteer Fire Company, provided written testimony. EXHIBITS 1, 2

Jane Jelinski, Chair, Gallatin County Commission, said it would be irresponsible to not allow the trained and willing volunteers to assist with first response because of the way the law is written. The concern with some volunteer associations is that County Commissioners will require them to provide a service when they do not want to do it. County Commissioners will not allow volunteers to do services they are not trained to do because the liability will be on the County Commission.

Drew Dawson, Chief, Emergency Medical Services Bureau, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, provided written testimony. EXHIBIT 3

Bruce Suenram, Montana Rural Fire Districts, supported HB 536.

#### Opponents' Testimony:

Lyle Nagel, Montana Volunteer Firefighters Association, provided written testimony. EXHIBIT 4

#### Questions From Committee Members:

REP. CROMLEY asked Bart Campbell if the amendments are accepted, will the title have to be changed. He said he hasn't had a chance to look at the title.

REP. SIMPKINS asked Drew Dawson what the liability is concerning the volunteers who are put in emergency medical situations. Mr. Dawson stated there is a Good Samaritan Law which covers volunteers who provide emergency medical services without compensation. REP. SIMPKINS asked if the rural communities asked for this service. Mr. Dawson responded yes.

REP. STICKNEY asked Bruce Suenram the difference between the other legislation and HB 536. Mr. Suenram stated HB 536 is more precise in that it says emergency medical services. The fire district bill was for emergency response equipment. A fire service area is formed by petition of 30 people who go to a hearing of Commissioners and establish a boundary. There is a fee established through a public hearing process that is against structures. Fire districts are tax based.

REP. McCAFFREE asked Drew Dawson what are the requirements for training for the first response volunteers. He said it depends on what level and type they choose. If they choose a basic life support, it would be advanced first aid and gradually changing to first responder which is a 44-hour training program. If they license at a higher level, training would be first responder.

REP. McCAFFREE asked if they are talking about volunteers only or people who are paid on a call basis. Mr. Dawson said it depended on the area. Fire service areas are basically volunteer. REP. McCAFFREE asked if that changed the liability if they are paid. Mr. Dawson said under the Good Samaritan Law there is a specific amount they are paid based on the gross income.

REP. SIMPKINS asked Lyle Nagel if small communities needed a funding source to promote quick response teams and if HB 536 would do that. He said yes. The bill would take away from firefighting funds to do it. REP. BARNETT asked Jane Jelinski to respond to the same question. Ms. Jelinski stated there are already trained firefighters in fire service areas who are doing appropriate medical emergency responses. The way the law is written, it prevents volunteers from spending any money to train themselves. HB 536 does allow for public hearings. If you have volunteer firefighters who don't want to do a specific job, remember, they are volunteers. They can just quit.

#### Closing by Sponsor:

REP. BRADLEY stated HB 536 is enabling legislation. The language of the bill is may, may, and may. This bill is needed in her county to get the emergency services where they are needed.

#### **HEARING ON HB 396**

#### Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. GRADY, House District 47, Canyon Creek, stated HB 396 changes the method for establishing a rural improvement district by petition. This legislation gives the people the right to say whether they want to be imposed upon. It should not come from the County Commissioners.

## Proponents' Testimony:

Chet Dreher, resident, provided written testimony. EXHIBIT 5

SEN. BECK, supported HB 396.

#### Opponents' Testimony:

Jane Jelinski, Board of Directors, Montana Association of Counties, provided written testimony. EXHIBIT 6

Jim Ellis, Lewis and Clark County Road Supervisor, stated HB 396 would tie the counties hands by not letting them create their own maintenance district with the approval of the people.

Ann Marie Dussault, Missoula County Commissioner, stated HB 396 is too limiting and does not give the Commissioners the opportunity to address the issues needed.

#### Questions From Committee Members:

REP. WALLIN asked if a property owner owned 60% of the property involved, that one person could put through a RID or kill it. REP. GRADY said that was not the intent of the bill. It is 60% of the landowners not 60% of the land owned.

REP. SIMPKINS asked if there was a compromise of 51% of the property owner rather than 60%. REP. GRADY said the people are who should propose the RID since they pay for it. If 60% of the people want it, then they should propose it and support the cost. REP. SIMPKINS asked Jane Jelinski if the counties have emergency provisions to take care of the health, safety, and welfare of the people in the county budgets. Ms. Jelinski said yes to respond to an emergency but in terms of major long term improvements no.

REP. J. RICE asked Jane Jelinski if HB 396 is giving the equivalent rule to those districts outside the city limits. Ms. Jelinski replied yes but this bill provides a single way to accomplish it, while now, there are a variety of ways to accomplish it.

#### Closing by Sponsor:

REP. GRADY stated that people are willing to pay more taxes for rural improvement districts; but it needs to be a majority of the property owners not the minority.

#### HEARING ON HB 602

#### Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. DRISCOLL, House District 92, Billings, stated HB 602, with amendments, allows the local governing body to oversee the taxes and budgets of appointed trade boards and commissions. The only taxing authority should be elected officials.

#### Proponents' Testimony:

Mike Mathew, Chairman, Yellowstone County Commission, stated HB 602 is an accountability bill. Tax dollars belong in the hands of elected officials not appointed board members. He agrees with the amendments.

Art Kleinjan, Blaine County Commissioner, supported HB 602 with amendments.

Ann Marie Dussault, Missoula County Commissioner, stated Commissioners appoint boards that have powers based on statute. Some boards refuse to bring to the County Commissioners their budget as well as the authority to raise the money needed. The appointed board has the ability to levy taxes and to spend tax monies. Who are they accountable to? She suggested amending the

section dealing with levying authority and number of mills to be assessed.

Opponents' Testimony: None

#### Questions From Committee Members:

REP. SIMPKINS asked REP. DRISCOLL if he agreed with the amendments. He replied yes.

REP. J. RICE asked REP. DRISCOLL what other trade board this bill applied too. He said it applies to mosquito, port authority, library boards and others.

#### Closing by Sponsor:

REP. DRISCOLL stated the amendments are important. The power to tax by elected officials is not very popular, but more popular than being taxed by people who aren't elected.

#### **HEARING ON HB 517**

#### Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. GOULD, House District 61, Missoula, stated if a municipality were to disincorporate, there could be severe problems caused in creating public safety districts to take care of the people living in the disincorporated area. HB 602 was drafted to insure that the Legislature would not have a special session to take care of the disincorporated area.

#### Proponents' Testimony:

Barbara Evans, Missoula County Commissioner, provided written testimony. EXHIBIT 7

Vance Bennett, Missoula Businessman, stated there is political unrest in Missoula. It would be difficult to provide police protection for disincorporated areas under the current law.

REP. TOOLE, stated HB 517 provides a safety net for a community who does disincorporate and should be in statute.

James Lofftus, Montana Fire Districts Association, supported HB 517. It would give the County Commissioners the power to provide police and fire protection if an area wishes to disincorporate.

#### Opponents' Testimony:

James Nugent, City Attorney, Missoula, provided written testimony. EXHIBIT 8

Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns, stated disincorporation is not easy to do. HB 517 promotes controversy

and conflict. Look for ways to put county and city governments together in more effective working relationships.

Richard Seddon, Montana Fireman's Association, stated HB 517 would cause dissension within the fire service and opposed the bill.

#### Questions From Committee Members:

REP. McCAFFREE asked Jim Nugent what he meant by three County Commissioners could disincorporate an area or a city. Mr. Nugent said he was referring to the fact that the standard form of County Commission government is a three commissioner form of government. They could actively become involved in disincorporation and that has become a concern. It creates additional power for the County Commissioner governments automatically upon disincorporation. The people could disincorporate now but the County Commissioners would not get the power to create special service districts.

REP. WALLIN asked if HB 517 was an incentive to have small communities disincorporate. Mr. Nugent stated he was not sure. REP. WALLIN asked the same question of Alec Hansen. He stated he knew of no small community that was willing to disincorporate.

REP J. RICE asked if the bill has to be permissive. Mr. Nugent replied yes it is permissive and must be in the ballot issue. This bill creates an incentive for County Commissioners and the rural fire district to create conflict. Local governments should not be competing against each other.

REP. McCAFFREE asked Barbara Evans what a special service district was. She compared it to a rural improvement district where a district can be created to provide a service.

REP. SIMPKINS asked what it takes to disincorporate an area. Ms. Evans replied 60% of the citizens of the city.

#### Closing by Sponsor:

REP. GOULD stated HB 517 was drafted to clear up chaos.

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 201**

Motion: REP. BECKER MOVED HB 201 DO PASS.

Motion: REP. BECKER moved to amend HB 201.

#### Discussion:

REP. BECKER explained the amendments. EXHIBIT 9

REP. WALLIN wanted to know the reason for the amendments. REP. BECKER stated the subcommittee was concerned with the edge of

town. If an area were 50% surrounded, that area could be incorporated into the city. The sponsor wanted an entity that was surrounded but with open ends. REP. GOULD stated if an area has a railroad going around it, that area could be annexed into the city because it would be considered "wholly surrounded"; and said HB 201 was a bad bill.

Vote: Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Motion: REP. D. BROWN moved to add amendment No 3: Page 2, Line 10, strike "transportation" and insert "railroad".

#### Discussion:

Bart Campbell asked REP. BROWN if railroad were put on Line 10, would he like to restore the language on Page 1, Line 18. REP. BROWN said yes if it were needed to protect the integrity of the amendment. Mr. Campbell stated that if Line 18 is left as is and change Line 10, it would mean land that is "wholly surrounded" could be annexed by a city. REP. J. RICE stated the amendment would be narrowing the language from "transportation" to "railroads". We aren't taking out "transportation" entirely. Mr. Campbell said making the change REP. BROWN suggests, the bill would say that land that is "wholly surrounded" can be annexed with the exceptions of agriculture, mining, smelting, or refining; and with regard to railroad property, an 80% surrounded area will be treated as "wholly surrounded" and could annex railroad property. REP. WALLIN stated the amendment wouldn't do anything unless the industrial park or railroad parts were deleted. REP. CROMLEY stated when the word "transportation" is changed to "railroad", the amendment becomes simple; but the title must be changed.

Motion/Vote: REP. WALLIN moved to Table HB 201. Motion failed on a tie vote with REPS. DARKO, DOWELL, S. J. HANSEN, BROOKE, BECKER, STICKNEY, CROMLEY, S. RICE, and WYATT voting no.

Vote: Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Motion/Vote: REP. STICKNEY MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION THAT HB 201 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion failed on a tie vote with REP. STICKNEY, BARNETT, GOULD, HAYNE, McCAFFREE, NELSON, J. RICE, SIMPKINS, and WALLIN voting no. EXHIBIT 10

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 602

Motion: REP. STICKNEY MOVED HB 602 DO PASS.

Motion/Vote: REP. NELSON moved to adopt the amendments. EXHIBIT
11 Motion carried unanimously.

Motion/Vote: REP. J. RICE MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION THAT HB 602 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 536**

Motion: REP. STICKNEY MOVED HB 536 DO PASS.

Motion: REP. GOULD moved to adopt the amendments. EXHIBIT 12

#### Discussion:

REP. SIMPKINS stated that in talking to Lyle Nagel, the rural fire department feels their money is going to be taken out of funds they have already levied and put into emergency medical services, which they have no control over. Bart Campbell stated HB 182 was for fire service districts. Fire districts and fire service areas are different. Fire districts levy on the property to raise monies for services provided. Fire service areas put a fee on the structures. Funding is done differently so HB 536 wouldn't apply to Mr. Nagel's concerns. REP. DOWELL stated that HB 536 was a permissive bill. REP. SIMPKINS said it expands the authority of how the money is to be used without the people involved having a say.

Motion/Vote: REP. STICKNEY MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION THAT HB 536 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 396**

Motion: REP. DARKO MOVED HB 396 DO NOT PASS.

Motion/Vote: REP. DARKO MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO TABLE HB 396. Motion carried 14 to 4 with REPS. HAYNE, NELSON, J. RICE, and SIMPKINS voting no. EXHIBIT 13

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 517

Motion: REP. GOULD MOVED HB 517 DO PASS.

Motion: REP. DARKO MADE A SUBSTITUTE THAT HB 517 BE TABLED.

#### Discussion:

REP. SIMPKINS said the bill should be discussed so members know what is going on.

Motion: REP. DARKO withdrew the Table motion.

#### Discussion:

REP. GOULD stated HB 517 is very important in case it is needed at any time. REP. S. J. HANSEN stated that the Constitution has a provision for local government review every ten years. If a city should decide to disincorporate, the city and county should be able to work out consolidation. REP. DARKO stated when a city disincorporates it gives up services. HB 517 is an incentive for cities to disincorporate, and those same cities are allowed to

HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE February 14, 1991 Page 11 of 11

continue using services provided in an incorporated city. When a city decides to disincorporate, the city should be aware of the consequences.

Motion/Vote: REP. DARKO MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO TABLE HB 517. Motion carried 12 to 6 with REPS. STICKNEY, BARNETT, GOULD, HAYNE, McCAFFREE, and SIMPKINS voting no. EXHIBIT 14

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 201

Motion: REP. DARKO MOVED HB 201 BE TABLED. Motion carried 15 to 3 with REPS. DOWELL, S. J. HANSEN and CROMLEY voting no.

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 35**

Motion: REP. J. RICE MOVED TO BRING HB 35 OFF THE TABLE. Motion failed 7 to 11 with REPS. BECKER, DOWELL, S.J. HANSEN, CROMLEY, DARKO, J. RICE, and WYATT voting aye.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

LOIS

CONNOR,

Adjournment: 7:00 p.m.

DW/lo

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 2-14-91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Paula Darko	X		
Rep. Jessica Stickney, Vice-Chair	X		
Rep. Joe Barnett	X		
Rep. Arlene Becker	X		
Rep. Vivian Brooke	X		
Rep. Dave Brown	X		
Rep. Brent Cromley	X		
Rep. Tim Dowell	X		
Rep. Budd Gould	X		
Rep. Stella Jean Hansen	X		
Rep. Harriet Hayne	X		
Rep. Ed McCaffree	X		
Rep. Tom Nelson	X		
Rep. Jim Rice	X		
Rep. Sheila Rice	X		
Rep. Richard Simpkins	X		
Rep. Norm Wallin	X	i	
Rep. Diana Wyatt, Chair	X		

#### HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 15, 1991 Page 1 of 2

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Local Government report that House Bill 602 (first reading copy -- white) do pass as amended

Signed:

Diana Wyatt, Chairman

#### And, that such amendments read:

1. Title, line 4. Following: "THAT"

Insert: ", WITH RESPECT TO TAX AND FEE MONEY,"

2. Title, line 5 Following: "OF"

Insert: "AND THE NUMBER OF MILLS TO BE ASSESSED BY"

3. Title, line 6. Following: "BY"

Strike: "THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IS"

Insert: "A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARE"

4. Title, line 7. Following: "BY"

Strike: "THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS"
Insert: "THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT"

5. Page 1, line 12.

Strike: "The"

Insert: "With respect to tax and fee money, the"

Following: "of"

Insert: "and the number of mills to be assessed by"

6. Page 1, line 13.

Strike: "the" Insert: "a"

4:05 2-15-91 TDB

February 15, 1991 Page 2 of 2

7. Page 1, line 14.
Strike: "county commissioners is"
Insert: "local government are"
Following: "by"
Strike: "the county"

8. Page 1, line 15. Strike: "commissioners" Insert: "that local government"

#### HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 15, 1991 Page 1 of 2

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Local Government report that House Bill 536 (first reading copy -- white) do pass as amended

And, that such amendments read:
1. Title, line 6.

Following: "7-33-2401"

Strike: "AND"

Insert: ","

Following: "7-33-2402,"

Insert: "AND 7-33-2404,"

2. Page 3, line 9.
Following: "(1)"

Insert: "(a)"
Strike: ", emergency medical,"

3. Page 3, line 10.

Following: "7"
Insert: ","

Strike: "and adequate"

4. Page 3, line 13.

Strike: "(2)" Insert: "(b)"

5. Page 3, line 14.
Following: "agency"

Insert: "; and

(2) emergency medical services and equipment, licensed by the department of health and environmental sciences, and related personnel, facilities, and maintenance"

4:08 2-15-91 7DB

February 15, 1991 Page 2 of 2

6. Page 3. Following: line 14

Insert: "Section 3. Section 7-33-2404, MCA, is amended to read:
 "7-33-2404. Financing of fire service area -- fee on
structures. (1) In the resolution creating the fire service area
and by resolution as necessary thereafter, the board of county
commissioners shall establish a schedule of rates to be charged
owners of structures that are benefitted by the fire services
offered by the fire service area.

(2) The rates must be applied on a fair and equal basis to all classes of structures benefitted by the fire service area.

(3) The board of county commissioners shall collect the funds necessary to operate the fire service area by charging the area rate as a special assessment on the owners of structures and collect the assessments with the general taxes of the county. The assessments are a lien on the property so assessed.

(4) The board of county commissioners or the trustees, if the fire service area is governed by trustees under 7-33-2403, may pledge the income of the fire service area to secure financing necessary to procure fire equipment and buildings to house fire the equipment. The outstanding amount of such indebtedness may not exceed 7% of the taxable valuation of the area.

## T. Bret Haggerty P.O.Box 1754 Bozeman, MT 59771

February 14, 1991

Montana State Legislature Capital station Helena, MT 59620

Dear Legislators:

I would like to express my support for House Bill 536. I feel there are three reasons as to why this Bill is beneficial to the customers of Fire Services Fee Areas with regards to emergency medical services.

- 1. Fire departments are GEOGRAPHICALLY DISTRIBUTED. Meaning, fire departments are the closest resource to an emergency situation in rural areas. Immediate medical attention, in many situations, may be the difference between life and death.
- 2. Personnel of departments have the ability to provide emergency medical services.
  - a. Fire departments already have basic medical equipment on their apparatus. In many instances monetary donations were made to purchase medical supplies and equipment, or the items themselves were donated.
  - b. Internally with in a fire department it is expected that medical assistance can be provided for an injured fire fighter.
  - c. Currently, a fire department operating in both districts and fee areas may provide emergency medical services related to the suppression of a fire.



# RAE VOLUNTEER FIRE GOMPANY

5400 GOOCH HILL RD., BOZEMAN, MT 59715

10481 2 1072 3-14-91 103 536

FEBRUARY 13, 1991

MONTANA STATE LEGISLATORS CAPITOL STATION HELENA, MT 59620

RE: HOUSE BILL 536

DEAR LEGISLATORS.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 536 WHICH GIVES CONTROL OF WHAT LEVELS AND TYPES OF SERVICES A FIRE SERVICE AREA CAN PROVIDE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EI. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES). IT WILL GIVE FIRE SERVICE AREAS A BETTER HANDLE ON WHAT THEY CAN AND CANNOT DO IN REGARDS TO E.M.S. AND WILDLAND FIRES TO NAME A FEW. PARTICULAR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CAN BE DEALT WITH ON A LOCAL LEVEL.

PLEASE GIVE HOUSE BILL 536 YOUR SUPPORT.

SINCERELY,

TOM KINGMA

RAE VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF

5400 GOOCH HILL RD.

BOZEMAN, MT 59715

DATE 2-14-91 HB 536

#### **HOUSE BILL 536**

Madam Chair, members of the committee. I am Drew Dawson, Chief of the Emergency Medical Services Bureau in the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.

An emergency medical services system requires the cooperation and involvement of many different organizations and agencies. Particularly in rural Montana, we need to take advantage of organizations which are interested in providing quality emergency medical services with well-trained persons and appropriate equipment. We don't like to turn interested folks away! House Bill 536 would, after considerable local public participation, allow Fire Service areas to expend funds for the provision of emergency medical services.

Title 50, Chapter 6, requires that emergency medical services be licensed by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. There are very reasonable mechanisms established to assure that EMS provided by any agency, including fire service areas, is adequate and standard.

Just as other fire departments, rural and urban, are now providing licensed emergency medical services at various level and types, House Bill 536 would allow the residents of fire service areas the same service. This can only help to improve Montana's emergency medical services system.

We are pleased to support this legislation.

Thank you.

MONTANA STATE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION INC. LYLE P. NAGEL, LOBBYIST P.O. BOX 93, SIMMS, MT. 59477 PHONE 264 5850 DATE 2-14-91 HB 536

February 14, 1991

Montana House of Representatives Local Government Committee Rep. Diana Wyatt, Chairman

#### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HE536

The main intent of this bill has already been addressed in another bill that has been before you earlier in this session. that is HB182 which amends 7-33-2105. The amendment authorizes trustees to provide for EMERGENCY <u>RESPONSE APPARATUS</u>, EQUIPMENT, <u>PERSONNEL</u>, HOUSING AND FACILITIES. This bill has passed the house and is now being considered in the senate.

When a Fire Service Area has been established and is operated by a board of trustees according to 7-33-2403, the provisions of 7-33-2105 and 7-33-2106 shall apply except that the trustees shall prepare annual budgets and request a schedule of rates instead of a mil levy.

Adding both KIND and TYPE to Lines 7, 18 and 22 on page 2 is not necessary because in this instance, according to Websters dictionary, the words have the same meaning (variety).

the amendment to 7-33-2401 (3), page 2 lines 15 thru 20, would allow the county commissioners to mandate that additional types of service must be provided. The provider of the fire service may not be equipped to provide these additional services and would not have a voice in the decision. The requirement to purchase additional equipment and seek the proper training for the firefighters could become a burden on both the budget and the training time of the provider.

If the county commissioners were to decide to provide emergency medical or some other type of emergency service, such as hazardous material response, water rescue or rough terrain rescue and it was not protested by the property owners in the area but an increase in the rates to cover the cost of the service were protested by over 50% of the property owners then the service would have to be provided without the any funding. This would jeopardize the funds established for the fire protection in the area.

The Fire Service Area statutes (7-24) were intended as a mean of providing funds for structure fire protection in rural areas outside of fire districts. The funding is derived from a fee charged the owners of the structures that are benefited by the fire service offered.

I agree that providing some emergency services such as emergency medical services to people in rural areas is a great benefit to those people but I do not feel that it is proper to sacrifice fire protection to accomplish the services. An additional fee on the owners of structures to provide these services would be placing the burden on

them for a service provided to everyone in the area.

Through experience, I can assure you that requiring a fire company to provide emergency medical service can have a devastating effect on the fire company and its members. Our fire company provided personnel and a vehicle for this purpose at one time but other members left the company because of the fear of the liability involved. Some of the members that were initially trained to provide the service dropped out because of the time required to keep their certification current.

I have checked on the operation of several emergency medical Quick Response Teams and other providers of pre-hospital emergency medical services to determine their methods of funding.

Glasgow operates their service through the hospital and includes the cost of the service to a patient on the hospital bill.

Fort Shaw uses a vehicle provided by the fire company but the cost of operation is born by the quick response team. They raise their funds through fund raisers and donations. The supplies that they use are replaced by the ambulance that responds and they in turn charge the patient on their bill. Most of their equipment and supplies was originally furnished by the county.

The cost of the training and some of the equipment for the Cascade Quick Response Team was covered by a local service club. The vehicle that they use to transport their equipment belongs th the county and is housed in the Cascade fire station.

Several other quick response teams in Cascade County use equipment provided by the county. The equipment is purchased with funds from the county EMS budget. Some of the providers use their own private vehicles for transportation.

There are other ways of funding these emergency services without using funds intended for fire protection and suppression. HB228 gives the provider the right to recover costs involved in a hazardous material response. This bill has passed the house and is now being considered in the senate. County commissioners have the authority to levy a tax to fund emergency medical services.

I have brought this bill to the attention of emergency medical service providers, fire company officers, firefighters and some of the officers of our association and I have been urged to not support HB536.

House Bill 182 would authorize Fire Service Area trustees to provide the equipment and personnel for emergency services. Then they could pursue a means of funding for the type of service they wish to provide.

I thank you for your time and attention and urge that when you consider HB536 that you recommend that it do not pass.

DATE 2-14-91 HB 396

Chester R. Dreher 1962 Colorado Gulch Helena, MT 59601 406-443-2698

## Statement in favor of Representative Ed Grady's H.R. 396

I want to thank Representative Grady for introducing this bill which would alter the origin of Rural Improvement Districts.

This bill, I believe, fosters good government, allowing governing propositions to spring from the governed, rather than the governors.

In September of 1988 the Lewis and Clark County Commission attempted to pass an RID in our area. A majority felt the County's proposal was concieved in haste, with inadequate thought given to the ramifications. We formed an ad-hoc committee to oppose passage. We obtained a copy of the statute, and in the 15 days the law allowed us to file our binding protest against the RID, we found a number of troubling provisions in the law, a few of which I'd like to briefly address.

First was the 15-day provision. In those 15 days we managed to marshal about a two-thirds vote against the RID, and we would have done better given more time.

Many property owners were out-of-state during this period, and we were unable in several instances to get their petitions back in time. To cite a few quick examples: One property was owned by a woman in Spokane and her sister in Belgium; the latter being the wife of a State Department employee.

Both had to sign and submit a description of their property.

Another property was owned by a US Navy seaman, stationed

Page two

Statement by Chester R. Dreher

in Japan, but often in transit to and from the Persian Gulf. His petition arrived a day late. Another property was owned by two brothers, one in Oregon, the other in Minnesota. Again a day late. I think you must all agree this an awkward method to cast a vote.

Second, the idea that the RID should be proposed by the County and not the people, we found disturbing. In our area, a few years previous, we had petitioned the Commission to form a fire district. That effort was a labor taken on by a few dedicated people and lasted over the course of two or three years before enough signatures were acquired. Cumbersome? Yes. Clumsy? Yes. But a true manifestation of the desire of a majority within the district.

Third, and perhaps most important, many of us felt ceding authority to the Commission to tax to pave our road, then tax to maintain it, was an invitation to future abuse. While we felt the intent of the current Commission honest in their stated goals, their intent would not be binding on future Commissioners. The statute presents county commissioners with a blank check drawn on the several accounts of the citizens within the district.

I understand there would be objections to local control from some quarters and I can't imagine why. In the formation of our fire district, mentioned above, we are guided by five elected trustees from within the district. They hold the taxing and spending authority. It seems to work well. We

Page three

Statement by Chester R. Dreher

are also part of a small school district with the same governing concept. It too works well.

We are seeing the Soviet system of central control and planning collapse after six or seven decades of their experiment. They're now struggling to decentralize. In this instance I suggest, "Go thou and do likewise."

Amend this statute to allow for local trustees to supervise the district's business. The County, as they do with our

fire and school districts, provide valuable support at minimal cost. They handle legal problems, collect taxes and supervise the voting, but the power resides with the trustees.

Fourth, we could find no sunset clause in the statute. Once created, the beast goes on in perpetuity. There ought to be a provision for the abolition of the district once its purpose has been served. Perhaps every four or six years a yes-no opportunity should be included on the ballot in the appropriate precincts.

Finally, in a slight digression, I'd like to say that the Lewis and Clark County Commission is faced with a monumental problem of building and maintaining roads. They have attempted to RID their way out of the problem, and I believe they've failed each time. I believe the solution is to raise the fuel tax by another penny or two, with the money to be reserved strictly for road work within the counties and without the onerus standards imposed by the state on the building of those roads.

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Page four

Statement by Chester R. Dreher

In summary then, I respectfully request this committee to consider:

- 1. Provide for petition by the people.
- 2. Provide for trustee-government.
- 3. Provide for abolition of the district.

If Representative Grady's provision is adopted, that is the creation by petition, the 15 day time period to oppose would be unnecessary and should be struck.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my views.

## MONTANA **ASSOCIATION OF** COUNTIES

2711 Airport Road Helena, Montana 59601 (406) 442-5209 FAX (406) 442-5238

TO:

Chairman Diana Wyatt and Members

House Local Government Committee

Gordon EL Gordon Morris, Executive Director

RE:

HB 396

DATE: February 8, 1991

I am unable to attend the hearing on HB 396 and must correspond MACo's opposition to this legislation.

Current law operates in the public interest since county commissioners are empowered to order and create RSID's (Rural Special Improvement Districts). This involves the passage of a resolution of intent to create (7-12-2103, MCA), public notice of the resolution (7-12-2105, MCA), a right to protest (7-12-2109, MCA), and a required hearing (7-12-2111, MCA).

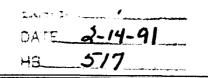
This gives the public the opportunity to voice concerns which must be considered by the commission. When more than 50% of the public (property owners) in a proposed district protest "the cost of the proposed work" no further proceeding shall be taken for a period of six months (7-12-2112, MCA). As a result, current law gives 50% + 1 the absolute right to protest the creation of any RSID.

The bill would establish a petition-only process to initiate a rural improvement district. As proposed, this petition signed by 60% of the property owners, is impractical as it may needlessly delay the creation at the very time speed is of the essence. It also directly contradicts the right of 50% +1 to protest.

This proposed change, in addition to the previous statements, does not take into account the costs to be identified in initiating a resolution of intent to create an RSID. Currently, the county is responsible for up front costs associated with the establishment of boundaries and the engineering studies necessary to the proposal. All of these must be done on the frontend. It is inconceivable that petitioners can adequately respond to these needs.

Current law allows professionals and elected officials to respond to needs in the community with adequate allowance for public input in every instance. Please consider this carefully and give a "do not pass" recommendation on the bill.





## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MISSOULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802

February 14, 1991

(406) 721-5700

Representative Gould and members of the Local Government Committee,

I would like to ask for the support of this committee for HB 517, which would allow a Board of County Commissioners to create a special service district and levy taxes to provide services to a city that disincorporates.

I personally asked Representative Gould to submit this bill for the following reason:

Present Montana statutes allow for disincorporation of cities, but there are no provisions, however, for a means of providing certain city services to the former residents of a city after they disincorporate. For example, there is no way to provide for law enforcement.

Having studied and served in local government for close to 15 years, I think I am somewhat adept at reading the public attitude. These things are clear to me:

- \* The City of Missoula has forcibly annexed large residential areas beginning in the Spring of 1990. In so doing, there has been a large outpouring of anger and frustration from those folks who were annexed.
- \* The present statute dealing with disincorporation requires signatures of 20% of the citizens of a city to place a disincorporation measure on the ballot. The last time I checked, the number of signatures required in Missoula would be about 5,000. The recently annexed areas of Missoula contain more than 5,000 people.
- \* There is active discontent among certain citizens of Missoula who are ready to begin an disincorporation petition drive. If indeed, they are able to get this issue on the ballot, and if 60% of the voters in the City of Missoula vote "yes", then disincorporation would occur. If that happens, the County MUST be able to provide the necessary services to these residents.

I request that this bill be passed. My testimony in favor of it is in no way intended as a personal view on the merits of disincorporation. It is intended merely to provide County government with the ability to function if it does occur. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Barbara Evans, Commissioner

hlaka

Missoula County



#### OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

435 RYMAN • MISSOULA, MT 59802-4297 • (406) 523-4614

February 13, 1991

EKHBIT<u>8</u> DATE<u>2-14-91</u> 91-077

House Local Government Committee Members Montana State Legislature Capitol Station Helena, Montana 59620

RE: OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 517

Honorable House Local Government Committee Members:

The purpose of this letter is to oppose HB-517 entitled "An Act Allowing a Board of County Commissioners to Create a Special Service District and Levy Taxes for the Purpose of Providing Service to a Municipality that Disincorporates" which is scheduled for committee hearing Thursday, February 14, 1991, at 3:00 p.m.

Please consider the current statutory purpose and reason in Montana for independently creating municipal governments and county governments. Municipal governments were created and statutorily empowered to manage, administer and address urban areas with respect to the provision of municipal services; whereas, county governments were created as political divisions of the state to carry out or enforce state government functions and responsibilities pursuant to state laws; for example, county clerks and recorder; county jails, district court, county sheriff, county treasurer, etc.

Statutorily, county governments were not structured to administer or manage urban areas in Montana. For example, county governments do not possess general ordinance making power which is obviously important for administering, managing and addressing urban problems. It is inappropriate, inefficient, wasteful and divisive to statutorily create a situation where local governments are potentially pitted against each other for the provision of government services. Potentially HB-517 will provide three member county commissions and rural fire districts an incentive to disincorporate a city government in order to acquire municipal powers for themselves.

HB-517 would give a three member county commission authority to create a special service district whose boundaries could encompass all or a part of a "disincorporated municipality, for the purpose of providing those services previously provided by the municipality".

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

# ROLL CALL VOTE

DATE	14-91	BILL NO.	201		NUMBER	
MOTION:	Do PA	SS AS AN	IENDED	_	Motion Failed	
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NAME	AYE	NO
REP. PAULA DARKO	X	
REP. JESSICA STICKNEY, VICE-CHAIR		X
REP. JOE BARNETT		X
REP. ARLENE BECKER		
REP. VIVIAN BROOKE		
REP. DAVE BROWN	X	
REP. BRENT CROMLEY	X	
REP. TIM DOWELL	X	
REP. BUDD GOULD		X
REP. STELLA JEAN HANSEN	X	
REP. HARRIET HAYNE		X
REP. ED MCCAFFREE		X
REP. TOM NELSON		$\lambda$
REP. JIM RICE		X
REP. SHEILA RICE	X	
REP. RICHARD SIMPKINS		X
REP. NORM WALLIN		X
REP. DIANA WYATT, CHAIR	X	, `

#### Amendments to House Bill No. 201 First Reading Copy

Requested by Representative Becker For the Committee on Local Government

Prepared by Bart Campbell February 13, 1991

1. Title, line 9. Strike: "50" Insert: "80"

2. Page 2, line 12.

Strike: "50%" Insert: "80%"

#### Amendments to House Bill No. 602 First Reading Copy

#### For the Committee on Local Government

Prepared by Bart Campbell February 15, 1991

1. Title, line 4. Following: "THAT"

Insert: ", WITH RESPECT TO TAX AND FEE MONEY,"

2. Title, line 5 Following: "OF"

Insert: "AND THE NUMBER OF MILLS TO BE ASSESSED BY"

3. Title, line 6. Following: "BY"

Strike: "THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IS"

Insert: "A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARE"

4. Title, line 7. Following: "BY"

Strike: "THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS"
Insert: "THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT"

5. Page 1, line 12.

Strike: "The"

Insert: "With respect to tax and fee money, the"

Following: "of"

Insert: "and the number of mills to be assessed by"

6. Page 1, line 13.

Strike: "the" Insert: "a"

7. Page 1, line 14.

Strike: "county commissioners is"

Insert: "local government are"

Following: "by"

Strike: "the county"

8. Page 1, line 15.

Strike: "commissioners"

Insert: "that local government"

#### Amendments to House Bill No. 536 First Reading Copy

Requested by Representative Bradley For the Committee on Local Government

Prepared by Bart Campbell February 13, 1991

1. Title, line 6.

Following: "7-33-2401"

Strike: "AND" Insert: ","

Following: "7-33-2402,"
Insert: "AND 7-33-2404,"

2. Page 3, line 9.
Following: "(1)"

Insert: "(a)"

Strike: ", emergency medical,"

3. Page 3, line 10.

Following: "-"
Insert: ","

Strike: "and adequate"

4. Page 3, line 13.

Strike: "(2)"
Insert: "(b)"

5. Page 3, line 14.

Following: "agency"

Insert: "; and

(2) emergency medical services and equipment, licensed by the department of health and environmental sciences, and related personnel, facilities, and maintenance"

6. Page 3.

Following: line 14

Insert: "Section 3. Section 7-33-2404, MCA, is amended to read:
"7-33-2404. Financing of fire service area -- fee on
structures. (1) In the resolution creating the fire service area
and by resolution as necessary thereafter, the board of county
commissioners shall establish a schedule of rates to be charged
owners of structures that are benefited by the fire services
offered by the fire service area.

- (2) The rates must be applied on a fair and equal basis to all classes of structures benefited by the fire service area.
- (3) The board of county commissioners shall collect the funds necessary to operate the fire service area by charging the area rate as a special assessment on the owners of structures and collect the assessments with the general taxes of the county. The assessments are a lien on the property so assessed.

(4) The board of county commissioners or the trustees, if the fire service area is governed by trustees under 7-33-2403, may pledge the income of the fire service area to secure financing necessary to procure fire equipment and buildings to house fire the equipment. The outstanding amount of such indebtedness may not exceed 7% of the taxable valuation of the area.""

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

### ROLL CALL VOTE

DATE	1-14-91	BILL NO.	396	NUMBER
MOTION:	DoNo	+ PASS		

NAME	AYE	NO
REP. PAULA DARKO	X	
REP. JESSICA STICKNEY, VICE-CHAIR	X	
REP. JOE BARNETT	X	ļ
REP. ARLENE BECKER	$\times$	
REP. VIVIAN BROOKE	X	
REP. DAVE BROWN	X	
REP. BRENT CROMLEY	X	
REP. TIM DOWELL	X	
REP. BUDD GOULD	X	
REP. STELLA JEAN HANSEN	×	
REP. HARRIET HAYNE		X
REP. ED MCCAFFREE	X	
REP. TOM NELSON		X
REP. JIM RICE		X
REP. SHEILA RICE	X	
REP. RICHARD SIMPKINS		X
REP. NORM WALLIN	X	
REP. DIANA WYATT, CHAIR	X	

and B	14
DATE	2-14-91
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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

## ROLL CALL VOTE

DATE	-14-91	BILL NO. 5/	 
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NAME	AYE	NO
REP. PAULA DARKO	IX	
REP. JESSICA STICKNEY, VICE-CHAIR		X
REP. JOE BARNETT		X
REP. ARLENE BECKER	X	
REP. VIVIAN BROOKE	X	
REP. DAVE BROWN	X	
REP. BRENT CROMLEY	X	
REP. TIM DOWELL	X	
REP. BUDD GOULD		X
REP. STELLA JEAN HANSEN	X	
REP. HARRIET HAYNE		X
REP. ED MCCAFFREE		X
REP. TOM NELSON	X	
REP. JIM RICE	X	
REP. SHEILA RICE	X	
REP. RICHARD SIMPKINS		X
REP. NORM WALLIN	X	
REP. DIANA WYATT, CHAIR	X	

	VISITOR . /	REGISTER		
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DATE 3-14-91	SPONSOR(S)	Lauld		
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PLEASE PRINT PLEASE PRINT PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
L'AMES ALOKITUS	MONTANAFIRE PIET ASSC	. 4	
Shirley Ramberg	Montana Truster Ass Director	F	
Richard Seddow	Mor L. STALE Firemen's Agsic		
Colwand LT:-s	State Counce of Proffesional Fineficiality		V
Jim Nugert	CityofMissoula		
A De Dies Miles	Mista Co		
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PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

	VISITOR REGISTER		
Local Lo	COMMITTEE	BILL NO	106
DATE 2-14-91 SPO	NBOR(S) Marrin	gton	
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NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
HARLEY WARNER	MONTANA ABSOC. OF CHURCHES		X
JOE RORERTS	DON'T GAMBLE W/THE FUTUR		X
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PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VISITOR REGISTER

	VISIION REGISTER		
Sacal L	COMMITTEE	BILL NO.	536
DATE 2-14-91	sponsor(s) Bradley	<b>/</b>	
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NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
JAMES A. LOFFTUS	MT FIRE DIST ASSC	·	
JANE JELINSKI	GALLATIN CO. COMMISSION	1	
T. Bost 7 logisety	RAE VOL. FIRE CO.	$\checkmark$	-
Shielwy Rambers	MT Firetruster Ass	V	
Lyle Nagel	Mt. St. Vol. Fire Eighters Asa		
Brue SUENRAM	Mt Rual Fix Dist	<u> </u>	
Deau DAWSON	Dept Howith		

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VISITOR REGISTER

	ONSOR(S) COMMITTEE	BILL NO.	396
PLEASE PRINT	PLEASE PRINT		SE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
CHET DREHER	SELF	X	
Jane Jelinski	MACO		$\times$
Jim ELLIS	MACRS		X
DON FREDRIKSON	SELF	X	
NORM LARSON	SELL	X	
Tom Book	516	X	·
AM DUSSAULT	MSLA CU	<b></b>	X
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#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VISITOR REGISTER

Local	Loon.	COMMITTEE	BILL NO.	602
DATE 2-14-91	/ BPONSOR (S)	Driscol		

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NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Arthur Kleinjan Chwook	Blaine County	X	
CURTIS MOXLEY CHIMON		X	
Gordon morris	MACO.	X	
M.L. Malleur	Yelloustone Co.	$\checkmark$	
AMDUSSAULT	Mosla Cu	X	
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PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.