

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 47

IN THE HOUSE

February 17, 1979	Introduced and referred to Committee on State Administration.
February 20, 1979	Committee recommend bill, do not pass.
February 21, 1979	Report adopted.

1 *House* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *47*
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Theresa L. Boyer* *Sen*
 3 *Albin Brown* *House*
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO
 6 LIMIT AND CONTROL OUT-OF-STATE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN
 7 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS.
 8
 9 WHEREAS, political contributions from out-of-state
 10 interests to candidates for the United States Congress have
 11 increased at an alarming rate in recent years; and
 12 WHEREAS, the percentage of out-of-state contributions
 13 to the total contributions is increasing and causing an
 14 overall increase in the amount of money being spent on
 15 Congressional political campaigns; and
 16 WHEREAS, out-of-state contributions are indirectly
 17 causing the cost of other statewide political campaigns for
 18 state offices to escalate; and
 19 WHEREAS, such out-of-state contributions are
 20 contributing to the undue influence of special-interest
 21 politics in Montana political campaigns; and
 22 WHEREAS, incumbency has been found to be positively
 23 correlated with large out-of-state contributions, thereby
 24 giving an unreasonable advantage to Congressional
 25 incumbents; and

1 WHEREAS, Article I, section 1, of the United States
 2 Constitution establishes that members of the House of
 3 Representatives are to be chosen by the people of the
 4 several states; and
 5 WHEREAS, the same principle was established for the
 6 election of Senators in Amendment 17 to that Constitution;
 7 and
 8 WHEREAS, the national government is a government formed
 9 by the states and the people of those states in order to
 10 accomplish purposes generally stated in the Constitution;
 11 and
 12 WHEREAS, for the choice of the people to be freely and
 13 fairly made, the kind of undue influence exerted by
 14 out-of-state interests should be limited and strictly
 15 regulated; and
 16 WHEREAS, there is no unbridgeable First Amendment
 17 right to unrestricted electioneering; and
 18 WHEREAS, the Federal Election Campaign Act preempts and
 19 supersedes state law; and
 20 WHEREAS, the United States Congress should attempt to
 21 strike a balance between protecting the integrity of the
 22 election systems and regulating the undue influence of
 23 wealth and special interest in politics.
 24
 25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE

HR 47
 -2- INTRODUCED BILL

1 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the Montana Legislature urges the Congress of the
3 United States to take immediate action to prohibit, limit,
4 or otherwise regulate to the maximum extent permitted by the
5 United States Constitution out-of-state political campaign
6 contributions in federal elections.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution
8 be sent by the Secretary of State to the President of the
9 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House
10 of Representatives, and to each member of Montana's
11 Congressional Delegation.

-End-