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House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24
INTRODUCED BY Stacy Swanson Knox Alford

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING PROPERTY OWNERS, DEVELOPERS, LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, AND OTHER AFFECTED CITIZENS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY COMMON GOALS REGARDING LAND DEVELOPMENT IN STREAMSIDE CORRIDORS AND URGING THEM TO IDENTIFY IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO REACH THOSE GOALS; AND REQUESTING THAT THESE EFFORTS BE COORDINATED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR.

WHEREAS, development pressure in Montana, especially in Montana’s streamside corridors, is increasing; and

WHEREAS, streamside corridors are an integral component in the protection of water quality, wildlife habitat, agricultural values, and aesthetic values in Montana; and

WHEREAS, Montana property owners have a right to the reasonable use, transfer, and development of their private property in streamside corridors; and

WHEREAS, Montana’s recreational, tourist, and agricultural industries represent important segments of Montana’s economy; and

WHEREAS, streamside corridor protection has recently proved to be a controversial and divisive issue in at least two Montana counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That property owners, developers, local and state government representatives, conservation districts, and other affected citizens be strongly urged to work together to address these issues in a sustained, cooperative, and positive manner by:

- (1) recognizing the importance of:
 - (a) private property rights and the free market property transfer system;
 - (b) streamside corridors’ contributions to protecting water quality, wildlife habitat, agricultural uses,

1 and Montana's unique quality of life; and

2 (c) Montana's natural beauty as a resource for the recreational and tourist industries; and

3 (2) defining common goals, including but not limited to:

4 (a) protecting private property rights in streamside corridors;

5 (b) continued viability of agricultural operations;

6 (c) protecting public health and the environment by minimizing water quality impacts from
7 streamside development;

8 (d) protecting streamside corridor wildlife habitat;

9 (e) encouraging the continuance of viable recreational and tourist industries;

10 (f) encouraging reasonable, well-ordered development in streamside corridors;

11 (g) establishing consensus-based, streamside development best management practices; and

12 (h) providing additional tangible benefits to property owners who follow streamside development
13 best management practices.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of the Governor be requested to coordinate a sustained,
15 ongoing, cooperative effort to address these issues by establishing statewide, regional, and local groups
16 to develop mutually satisfactory solutions that will safeguard private and public rights in Montana's
17 streamside corridors.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that relevant state and local agencies be encouraged to provide
19 administrative assistance as necessary to enhance the cooperative effort.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that solutions developed by statewide, regional, and local groups be
21 reported to future legislatures and that legislation introduced by any of these groups reflect the mutual
22 interests of property owners, developers, concerned citizens, and the tourist industry.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to any
24 property owner, developer, agricultural, wildlife, local government, conservation district, or other group or
25 organization that is interested or involved in the issues outlined in this resolution.

26 -END-

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

2 INTRODUCED BY HARPER, SWANSON, KNOX, HIBBARD

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