

## City of Missoula Lobbyist Report Week of Jan. 24

### **Bills/Committees Testified:**

House State Admin: **HB 226**. Revise government records management to exempt personnel files. Testified in support.

Senate Local Government: **SB 163**. Clarify municipal authority to regulate outdoor lighting. Testified in Support.

House State Admin: **HB 242**. Revise school and municipal elections with primary elections. Testified in opposition. Agreed with MLCT that removing municipal elections from bill might address our biggest concern.

House Local Government: **HB 211**. Revise laws relating to municipal general obligation bonds. Testified in favor.

Senate Highways and Transportation: **SB 111**. Limit noneconomic damages in motor vehicle accidents. Signed in as proponent. Hearing conflicted so was unable to testify. Provided support materials to members.

House State Admin: **HB 197**. Constitutional amendment allowing legislature to change retirement plans. Signed in as proponent. Hearing conflicted. Many opponents. Unlikely to pass from committee.

Senate Judiciary: **SB 149**. Provide for a crime of predatory loitering for previously convicted sex offender. Testified in favor.

House Appropriations: **HB 317**. Sunset statutory appropriations over certain periods. Testified in opposition.

House Human Services: **HB 83**. Create prescription drug registry. Testified in favor and provided committee members with written materials from Missoula Police chief.

Senate Public Health: **SB 193**. Revise laws related to medical marijuana. Sat in on hearing to learn more about the bill. Did not testify.

House Local Government: **HB 231**. Repeal requirements for municipalities to hire career paid firefighters. Signed in as opponent. Provided written comments to committee members from Missoula Fire Department chief and assistant chief.

Senate Highways and Transportation: **SB 82**. Provide for a primary seat belt law. Testified in favor.

### **Other Direct Lobbying Activities:**

Alec Hansen and I met with Rep. Arntzen to discuss pending TIF legislation she is proposing. Attempting to consolidate her bills and discuss alternatives to others.

Met several times with members of the Missoula House delegation to discuss pending legislation that would prohibit municipalities from adopting anti-discrimination ordinances like Missoula's. Also met with the bill sponsor to discuss same. The legislation is not yet drafted.

Participated in Conference Call with Montana seat belt coalition to discuss strategy, lobbying efforts and testimony for primary seat belt bill.

Discussed HB223 with sponsor Rep. Barrett; bill to replace residential property tax assistance with a circuit breaker. Sponsor received the fiscal note on his bill right before the hearing. The hit is substantial.

Met with Brianna from Clark Fork Coalition to discuss two bills – the floodplain obstruction bill which has passed, as well as a bill requiring disclosure of septic systems in home sales. She's seeking support from the city on the second item.

Conference Call with Engen and Bender to discuss special districts pending legislation. Had several conversations with Harold Blattie and Alec Hanson on the same.

Participated in a good meeting with stakeholders in the Subdivision for Rent or Lease issue, including Missoula County, the Millers from Missoula, the attorney general's office, Lewis and Clark County, The Realtors. Initial work is underway on legislation to address this situation.

Met with Sen. Bruce Tutvedt to discuss his SB209 subdivision revision bill. He acknowledged problems and said he was "pulling" the bill. He later told me he may try to salvage to parts of the bill – a commitment to a five-day turnaround (something we might be able to work with on the right language) and a provision prohibiting a governing board from taking testimony from an agency that is in contradiction from an agency's official report.

Met very briefly with Sen. Shockley to discuss a provision of his Public Defender bill that limits the caseload of deputy public defenders.

Held several discussions with lawmakers and lobbyists on pending TSEP bills, including one up for committee discussion Monday.

Attending executive action on "vote-by-mail" bill, then assisted in efforts to shore up support on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the bill before the full House, after GOP members backed out of support for it.