

# CITY OF MISSOULA LOBBYIST REPORT

*For the week of January 19 – January 23, 2015*

## **Issues Update**

- 1) Local Option Authority - Continued meetings with League representatives, legislators and Missoula delegation to discuss the status of the local option authority bill. Sponsors confirmed and a final version of the bill drafts was presented to legislative services Thursday

## **Bill Review Update**

- 1) 9 House Bills identified with review requests to City staff
- 2) 2 Senate Bills identified with review requests to City staff

## **Bill Action Update**

- 1) **HB182:** Require that zoning be adopted before use of land can be regulated
  - a. Passed out of committee. Request to delegation sent to vote NO on House floor. City will continue to OPPOSE.
- 2) **HB183:** Revise annexation laws related to parks
  - a. Passed out of committee with amendments that may address the city's concerns – amendments make it clear that it is only "certain" parks that are "wholly surround by" the other annexed properties. As written, this creates a substantial amount of leeway. City may wish to change position to MONITOR.
- 3) **HB192:** Increase the cap on net metering
  - a. Testified in House Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications in SUPPORT of this net-metering bill. Significant bi-partisan support. Heavy opposition from energy industry.
- 4) **SB115:** Generally revise laws related to boarding animals subject to court proceedings
  - a. On record as SUPPORTING bill. Was unable to attend hearing due to conflicts, but signed in as SUPPORT and Billings lobbyist told the committee the City of Missoula supports.
- 5) **HB222:** Revise laws related to oversize loads
  - a. Testified at House FRET in OPPOSITION to the bill. Joined by League of Cities and Towns. We made our points and told the committee that there were better ways to address the issue than through legislation. This is very likely to pass out of committee so the League and MacDonald are meeting with the Department of Transportation Friday at 1 p.m. to discuss alternative approaches that may allow this bill to be set aside.
- 6) **HB205:** Revise fees charged for alcohol license
  - a. Testified in House Local Government in OPPOSITION. Expressed city's concerns that there are a lot of expenses incurred in regulation. This bill is likely to get out of committee on a party-line or near-party-line vote. We are continuing to meet with legislators on the committee to persuade some votes.
- 7) **HB224:** Generally revise building code program laws
  - a. Testified in SUPPORT. Joined by the League, Montana Building Trade Association and Montana Building Code Division.