

# CITY OF MISSOULA LOBBYIST REPORT

*For Period Ending February 27, 2015*

## **Issues Update**

### **1) Local Option Authority Legislation**

a. MacDonald, David Nielsen with the League, and Ed Bartlett with the City of Billings all met with Rep. Jeff Essman Wednesday to discuss the status of the main local-option authority bill. This is a revenue bill and does not require introduction prior to transmittal. Essman has agreed after our discussion to introduce the bill. It will go to House Tax, and our task through next week is to meet with all members of that committee to gauge support.

### **2) HB471 – Revise local government property tax cap**

a. MacDonald and other lobbyists also did some initial work in preparation for next week's hearing on HB471, Rep. Cook's bill that would allow local governments to raise the cap on mills from half the rate of inflation to the full rate of inflation. A hearing is scheduled for March 5.

## **Bill Action Update**

### **1) SB369 – Requiring reductions in the use of certain chemical de-icers on Montana roads.**

a. Testified in OPPOSITION of bill. Testified along with Missoula County, MACO and the DOT. The legislation got out of committee, and was then referred to Senate Finance and Tax. Despite a massive fiscal note, that committee also voted the bill out – apparently so it could be heard on the full Senate floor. With the city's help, we got word to the delegation to oppose the bill. MACO and Missoula County reached out to other legislators as well. Sen. Barrett from Missoula spoke against the bill on the floor. Bill FAILED.

## **Bill Activity for Period Ending February 27, 2015**

### **1) Bills Supported and Active**

- a. HB99 – Revise fuel tax laws (Revenue Bill)
- b. HB195 - Revise pretrail diversion laws (Transmitted to Governor)
- c. HB280 - Generally revise laws on bicycles
- d. HB471 - Revise local government property tax cap

### **2) Bills Supported and Inactive (Probably Dead)**

- a. HB14 - Creating broadband development fund through bonding
- b. HB192 - Net metering
- c. HB216 - Expand use of treasure state endowment funds
- d. HB224 - Generally revise building code program laws
- e. HB275 - Revise fuel tax revenue to fund maintenance and public transportation
- f. HB308 - Revise coal board and impact grant laws
- g. HB312 - Require MDT to consider growth policies and neighborhood plans
- h. HB364 - Revise laws related to certain municipalities setting highway speed limits
- i. HB385 - Revise cash donation in lieu of land for park dedication requirement
- j. HB386 - Revise laws on sale to or exchange of park land with public entities
- k. HB485 - Revise net metering laws
- l. SB115 - Generally revise laws related to boarding animals subject to court
- m. SB278 - Revise pedestrian laws

### **3) Bills Opposed and Active**

- a. HB183 - Revise annexation laws related to parks
- b. HB213 - Revise business equipment tax laws (Revenue Bill)
- c. HB222 - Revise laws related to oversize loads
- d. HB330 - Establish standards for law enforcement use and acquisition of certain equipment
- e. SB290 - Apply private motor carrier safety standards to certain publicly owned (Revenue Bill)

### **4) Bills Opposed and Inactive (Probably Dead)**

- a. HB182 - Require that zoning be adopted before use of land can be regulated
- b. HB205 - Revise fees charged for alcohol license
- c. HB333 - Generally revise laws related to publicly operated cameras
- d. HB368 - Sunset voter approved property tax levies after certain period of time
- e. HB371 - Generally revise concealed weapon laws
- f. HB484 - Require certain delivery and disclosure of utility bills
- g. SB103 - Provide presumptive disease coverage for paid firefighters
- h. SB161 - Prohibit 457 deferred comp plan from accepting rollovers
- i. SB301 - Revise laws on public service commission regulation of municipal utilities
- j. SB369 - Requiring reductions in the use of certain chemical de-icers on Montana roads