

## **Missoula Lobbyist Report for Week of Jan. 10**

### **Committees and bills testified on:**

HB181: Condo Protest Vote provision. House Local Government. Testified as “opponent” but said the city’s intent was to raise questions about fairness to other affected residents. Continuing to work with the sponsor and members of House Local government on this one. There likely is not a solution to this bill that can address Missoula’s concerns, but I think the committee recognizes this and other problems and my not support it.

SB187: Montana-made wood requirement in road and highway construction. House Transportation. Testified as an opponent, but noted that there were some simple changes to the bill that could likely address Missoula’s concerns. Those have been worked out in amendments that the sponsor has agreed to that would change the mandate to a “when appropriate” status. Rep. Dianne Sands has agreed to carry the amendments. The change basically conforms to what DOT already does and often requires in bids.

HB62: Repeal procedures to challenge municipal sewer system rates to PSC. House Local Government. Provided City’s Support. Simple bill.

HB56: Entitlement program changes. House Taxation. Testified in opposition. Joined MLCT, MACO, county commissioners, others as an opposition bloc to this provision. The only proponent to speak was the Budget Director Dave Euwer.

### **Other Direct Lobbying Efforts**

Numerous discussions regarding ongoing subdivision rental property legislation under consideration.

Direct lobbied legislative members on primary seat belt enforcement and sought support for Sen. Sonju’s bill to limit non-economic damages in instances where plaintiffs had violations such as DUI and suspended license. Sought support to expand that to include seat belt use. Met with lobbyists and lawmakers to discuss a similar bill regarding seat belt use evidence in civil lawsuits.

SB149 – predatory loitering bill. Met with sponsor to discuss and offer support. This bill sets up a procedure for filing charges against sexual offenders who loiter in certain areas.

SB8. –Allow local governments to require water and sewer systems. Heard Monday. I did not testify but sat in to listen to some of the testimony. MACO, others led support. Builders, Realtors opposed – on the basic grounds that they believe all of this is already plain as day in the legislation that passed last session. TABLED in Committee. Not unexpected.

SB131. Cliff Larsen’s “room-rate” stipulation for TBIDs. Met with Sen. Larsen to discuss the bill. I think the city can support.

HB76. Eliminate floodway obstruction removal fee assessed by DNRC. Talked with the agency and bill sponsor ahead of time. This is a fee that has never been collected and which the agency

gets reprimanded every year by auditors for continuing to keep an account for. DNRC understood the city's position, but the fee elimination was necessary, it says, because the cost of managing it would far outweigh the \$1,000 to \$5,000 per year the fee would bring in.

HB 85: Require employer contributions on working retirees in PERS, SRS, FURS. Sat in on this hearing. Essentially if employees retire and then come back to work for the entity, it must continue to fund retirement plans.

### **Other Activities**

SB 3: Require state agencies to report on heritage properties. PENDING

SB 8: Allow local governing body to require public water and sewer systems. TABLED

SB21: Court dismissal of case with no action. PASSED Full Senate 49-0

SB26: Require notice that violation of temporary protection order is a crime. PASSED 48-1

SB41: Allow cities to establish courts of record. 49-0

SB 43: Revise the primitive parks act. PENDING

SB 89: Reduce DEQ and local sanitation review times. PENDING

HB31: Prevent providing vehicle to person who does not have driver's license. TABLED

HB55. Clarify penalties for speed zone violations. TABLED

HB60 Revise laws related to the supervisor of motor carriers. PASSED 98-1

HB76 Eliminate floodway obstruction removal fee assessed by DNRC. PENDING.

HB 98: Direct proceeds from sale of state parks; deposit in state parks spec. rev. fund. (PASSED COMMITTEE. PENDING BEFORE HOUSE

HB158 Allow certain physicians in emergency situations to use blinker or red light . PENDING