

## City of Missoula Lobbyist Report for Week of Feb 21

### Committees and Bills Testified:

Senate Tax, SB 288: Provide administrative appeal for special district assessments. MACO bill sponsored by Kim Gillan to create an administrative appeal for those who believe they were wrongly assessed. This does not include protests of the creation of the district or the amount, but rather a way to appeal if the assessment was improperly applied. Hearing went well. Likely no opposition.

Senate Tax, SB 378: Notice required for recording instrument affecting title to real property. Missed the hearing (it was actually in the same committee as SB288, but I left to sit in on HB2 deliberations). I spoke with Kim Gillan and Ron Erickson after to talk about the hearing and Marty Rehbein sent a letter to Erickson and Gillan regarding concerns. I've been advised that this bill had significant opposition and the sponsor recognizes there are problems. Sen. Wittich may try to amend it into something workable. I will try to monitor.

House Appropriations. I participated in several days of deliberations on House Bill 2, including education and human services. Final outcome is still pending.

Joint Long-Range Planning Subcommittee, HB11: Treasure state endowment program and transfers of money to the general fund. Attended executive action on bill. Committee recommended tabling.

Senate Taxation, SB 372: Lower business equipment tax -- phase more reduction on state economic growth. Attended hearing but did not testify. We may consider supporting as this bill does include a full reimbursement for local governments.

House Agriculture, HB 515: Provide for maximum number of dogs and minimum standards of care. Rep. Sue Malek's bill. Had hoped to testify in favor but was conflicted with a meeting on tax increment finance districts with Rep. Arntzen.

Senate Tax, SB 358: Generally revise tax increment financing districts. Attended a portion of the hearing but did not testify. Should be noted that several members of the committee, particularly including Chairman Bruce Tutvedt, asked about the status of a bill draft affecting the 95 mills. Given that there was a lot of conversation on this proposal during the committee hearing, I think we are going to want to monitor closely to see if something comes up.

### Other Direct Lobbying

Alec Hansen, Ed Bartlett and I met with Rep. Arntzen to further discuss her TIF bills that were scheduled to be in committee on the 8<sup>th</sup>. However, she has agreed to ask that those hearings all

be rescheduled for at least a week later so we can continue to discuss with her our issues with her bills. Two that are intended to primarily make the information “more” public are simply unnecessary because of existing state open-records laws and only put an additional burden on local governments. Her bill regarding definitions of “blight” I think we may be able to work with her to reach some compromise. Her HB564, which says that TIF money not be used to “supplant” existing municipal services is awkward in its wording. What she is attempting to say is that you can’t use TIF money to pay for services that a municipality is supposed to already be providing. I think with some wording changes, this bill could be fairly innocuous, but we need to continue to work on it. Arntzen has agreed to meet us again this Tuesday and Chris Behan is going to try to join either by phone or in person. Meanwhile, we do have another week to work with her.

I continue to talk with Senate members about HB516, Rep. Hansen’s bill to overturn the Missoula anti-discrimination ordinance. We continue to try to determine where members are at. We additionally believed this would be heard in Senate Judiciary, since it was heard in House Judiciary. It was instead referred to Senate Local Government. One-on-one conversations with Republican members of that committee will continue this week. (A hearing date has not yet been set.)

Subdivision for Rent or Lease: We had a meeting of most of the stakeholders on this issue on Friday and seem to have made some good progress. In attendance were Michele Reinhart, Jerry Grebenc (CTAP), Austin Knudsen (a freshman R attorney/legislator from Culbertson who is carrying LC 1670), Tara DePuy and Harold Blattie (MACo), Dustin Stewart (MBIA), Glenn Oppel (Realtors), Anne Hedges (MEIC), Linda Stoll (Missoula County) and me. The lobbyists for the builders and realtors have agreed to go back to their members with the idea of reducing the structures exempt from four to two, but allowing individual local governments to establish protocols if they choose to consider a higher number. The group is considering abandoning HB494 (Edmunds bill that the city supports because of the zoning exemption) in lieu of LC1670. The group understands that the city’s position remains we NEED that zoning exemption in there and they’ve agreed it will be. I think we are pretty close on this one. Linda Stoll has separately sent a note that some of what was discussed is conceptual and complicated and that stakeholders may want to consider a two-year temporary bill. She has forwarded her bill to the City/County OPG officials.

### **Other Activities**

None.