

## City of Missoula Lobbyist Report for Week of March 7

### Committees and Bills Testified:

Not a lot of hearings this week. I am trying to limit my testimony to bills that we supported or opposed in the original house that have now moved to the second house. Additional time is being spent monitoring the status of program funding as it makes its way through HB2 and amendments.

House Approps: HB2, Continued monitoring through the week as this went to the floor for additional amendments and changes.

Senate Local Government HB 231: Repeal requirements for municipalities to hire career paid firefighters. Watched but did not testify. HB 380: Revise laws related to water and waste water systems and districts. Watched but did not testify. HB 426: Revise incorporation laws to coincide with annexation laws. Watched but did not testify. HB 552: Provide workers' comp to volunteer firefighters and EMS workers. Watched but did not testify. HB575, generally revise annexation laws. This bill has gone through several changes and modifications to make it palatable to the city. Alec Hansen and Rep. Hansen continue to work out several remaining details, but this bill will likely emerge as one we can continue to support.

Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, HB 309: Clarify prohibition on recreational access to ditches. Signed in as opponent. Several hundred were in attendance and the time for testimony was limited.

Senate Natural Resources, HB 28: Revise requirements for septic mixing zones. Jim Larson attended and testified. HB 352: Revise laws relating to water quality standards and provide alternatives.

Senate State Administration, HB 99: Generally revise laws relating to absentee ballots and mail ballots. Testified in favor. Bill seems to have strong support.

Senate Judiciary, HB 161: Repeal medical marijuana law. Monitored, but did not testify. This committee seems to support a repeal and as deliberations on this and other bills continue, I am more uncertain as to the final outcome of the medical marijuana issue. There seems to be some growing support among key legislators to simply repeal it entirely.

### Other Direct Lobbying:

I had additional time this week to discuss some pending legislation with lawmakers and provide information about bills coming up that are important to the city. We had several meetings this week with Rep. Elsie Arntzen regarding the four different TIF related bills she still plans to introduce on Tuesday at House Tax. Fortunately, through work Chris Behan, Alec Hansen and some Billings officials, I think we've fixed the worst problems in two of her bills, have a better agreement on a third, but have

failed to yet persuade her to not introduce the fourth. On Tuesday, we will likely continue to oppose all four of these, however, because they are making changes that simply are not necessary.

Regarding HB516, Rep. Hansen's bill to overturn the Missoula ordinance, I have been working with city leaders from Missoula and elsewhere, along with lobbyists for the ACLU and Human Rights Network to organize testimony for Monday's hearing and get prepared statements to the committee. I've also had an opportunity to speak with three key Republicans on the committee regarding their positions on the bill.

Work continues on legislation to address the Subdivision for Rent or Lease issue. Champ Edmunds bill, which the city supported in the first house, had a hearing in the Senate this week. We did not speak in support, however, because it is believed the bill is likely going to be sidelined for now in order to bring a more comprehensive bill together that we worked on last week. However, there have been some concerns about that bill raised by Missoula County and MACO and the planners, so efforts continue.