

## **Montana House Conservation Hotlist Week 6: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

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### **Please Support:**

**HB 140, Update laws related to hunting and fishing licenses, Rep. Welborn (R-Dillon), House Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Committee, awaiting executive action, Support.** This bill will both revise and streamline Fish, Wildlife, and Parks license fees and licensing structure. The basics of the bill are a \$3 increase to the resident fishing license and an \$8 resident base hunting license increase. This bill is important because license fees are a critical component of the FWP budget and their ability to execute the many programs and jobs the department is responsible for managing. Contact Mark Aagenes, Montana Trout Unlimited, 544.9265, mark@montanatu.org.

**HB 253, Oil and gas waste disposal, Rep. Court (D-Billings), House Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications, awaiting executive action, Support.** This bill would protect soil and water by prohibiting the use of earthen pits or ponds during oil and gas development in favor of a "closed-loop system." This would efficiently recycle circulated mud used during the drilling process while preventing fluids from coming into contact with native soils and eliminates the need for an earthen reserve pit or pond. Contact Adam Haight, Northern Plains Resource Council, 661.345.1056, adam@northernplains.org.

**HB 312, Require MDT to consider growth policies and neighborhood plans, Rep. Wilson (D-Missoula), House Local Government Committee, awaiting executive action, Support.** This bill would require Montana Department of Transportation projects to coincide with the provisions of neighborhood plans and local growth policies. State agencies do not need to frustrate local government planning. Contact Erin Farris-Olsen, Smart Growth Coalition, 461.8530, elfarris@gmail.com.

**HB 310, Establish an oil and gas trust fund, Rep. Jacobson (D-Great Falls), House Taxation, awaiting executive action, Support.** This bill would authorize a constitutional referendum to be placed on the ballot that would, if approved by Montana voters, create an oil and gas trust fund. The trust fund is modeled after the successful coal tax trust fund, and recognizes the unpredictable, variable, and finite nature of oil and gas development by setting aside a small portion of the revenue that the state already receives from oil and gas for future generations. Contact Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center, 581.4634, djohnson@meic.org.

**HB 434, Revise asbestos laws, Rep. Lieser (D-Whitefish), Hearing House Natural Resources 02/11/15 at 3pm, Support.** This bill updates outdated laws and prevents unnecessary public exposure to asbestos fibers. The bill will regulate and establish criteria for asbestos abatement practices and require statewide standards for training and accreditation of asbestos workers, as well as evaluate the two decade old Asbestos Control Act. Contact Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center, 461.9546, ahedges@meic.org.

### **Please Oppose:**

**HJ 11, Joint resolution regarding the keystone pipeline, Rep. Lang (R-Malta), House Federal Relations, Energy & Telecommunications, awaiting executive action, Oppose.** This resolution would support construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would allow a Canadian corporation to ship oil to Asia via Gulf Coast refineries. Development of the tar sands has proven to be a major contributor to climate change and pollution of our air and water. Contact Kyla Maki, Montana Environmental Information Center, 437.2846, kmaki@meic.org.

## House Conservation Hotlist, 02/09/15

**HB 244, Fund litigation protecting Montana products in interstate commerce, Rep. Essman (R-Billings), House Appropriations, awaiting executive action, Oppose.** This bill is instigating litigation on coal exports through Attorney General's slush fund This bill would create a \$1 million slush fund for Montana's attorney general Tim Fox to instigate litigation in Oregon and Washington in support of coal export terminals. This would double the attorney general's entire litigation budget. Contact Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center, 461.9546, ahedges@meic.org.

**HB 340, Require federal government to comply with air quality laws in Montana, Rep. Burnett (R-Bozeman), House Natural Resources Committee, awaiting executive action, Oppose.** This bill requires DEQ to take an enforcement action against the federal government for air pollution related to forest fires on federal lands impacted by insects and disease. This bill only targets the federal government and ignores fires on state, tribal, or private land. This bill ignores the fact that climate change is causing increased fires and insect infestations. Finally, this bill ignores the fact that the federal government has sovereign immunity and cannot be sued in such circumstances. Contact Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center, 461.9546, ahedges@meic.org.

**HB 380, Revise laws related to subdivisions and recreational camping vehicles, Rep. Miller (R-Helmville), Hearing House Local Government Hearing, 02/10/15 at 3pm.** This bill would create a large exemption from the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act for RV and mobile home parks. HB 380 would prevent a local governing body from reviewing a subdivision if a developer proposes fewer than 20 recreational vehicles or mobile homes on the property regardless if impacts to local services such as fire, police, roads, and parks. Contact Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center, 461.9546, ahedges@meic.org or contact Erin Farris-Olsen, Smart Growth Coalition, 461.8530, elfarris@gmail.com.

**HB 401, Revise Renewable Resource Definition, Rep. Fitzpatrick (R-Great Falls), Hearing House Federal Relations, Energy & Telecommunications, 02/09/15 at 3pm, Oppose.** This bill eliminates the five megawatt limit on facilities that burn railroad ties and counts them as a renewable resource under the renewable energy standard. Railroad ties are treated with arsenic, creosote, and other hazardous chemicals. These toxic chemicals should not be qualified as clean, renewable energy resources. Contact Kyla Maki, Montana Environmental Information Center, 443.2520, kmaki@meic.org.

**SB 114, Require that all hydro facilities be classified as renewable, Sen. Barrett (R-Dillon), Hearing House Federal Relations, Energy & Telecommunications, 02/11/15 at 3pm, Oppose.** The Renewable Energy Standard (RES) requires regulated utilities to acquire 15% of their energy resources from clean renewable resources by 2015, which has already been met. This radical bill makes the RES meaningless, eliminating incentives for new, diverse and often community-based renewable energy development like wind because it would swamp the standard by counting the energy from dams. The RES originally included smaller hydro (energy from dams less than 15MW), but intentionally excluded large dams. Contact Kyla Maki, Montana Environmental Information Center, 443.2520, kmaki@meic.org.

*The Weekly Hotlist is published as an educational service to lawmakers and citizens by the Conservation Working Group, comprised of the organizations listed below. Contact Neal Ullman, Montana Conservation Voters at 254-1593 ext 3.*

Clark Fork Coalition \* Community Food and Agriculture Coalition \* Montana Audubon  
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