

SENATE BILL NO. 169

TESTIMONY OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In accordance with Montana and federal law and state-federal agreement the Department of Public Service Regulation, Public Service Commission, administers federal law applying to natural gas pipeline safety. Regarding violations of pipeline safety law SB169 makes Montana's maximum penalty provisions identical to federal maximum penalty provisions. The minimum penalty provision is unchanged.

The federal government funds a part of Montana's enforcement. Funding is based on a point system. If state law is not in accordance with federal law, points are deducted and funding is reduced. SB169 will allow additional federal funding of Montana's pipeline safety program.

The PSC supports SB 169. Thank you for your consideration.

Greg Jergeson  
PSC Chairman  
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