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SB SJ19

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HOUSE FEDERAL RELATIONS' COMMITTEE:

Good afternoon. I'm Mike Mosolf, a concerned citizen from Dillon, Montana. I rise in support of the joint resolution before you and wish to address a few of the proclamations contained in the document. But first I'd like to read to this committee another resolution that was enacted two years ago by the Dillon City Council:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Montana, and the Bill of Rights is the law of the land; and,

WHEREAS, the Patriot Act passed by the U.S Congress in response to terrorism, takes away some of those liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the City Council of the City of Dillon, do hereby resolve that the City does support fully the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Montana, and the Bill of Rights, and requests the Congress of the United States to repeal all sections of the Patriot Act, which take away those rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

In effect Dillon's City Council crafted a simple, generic resolution that seeks to protect those rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

I hope this committee considers the courage and unselfish patriotism of the Dillon City Council members who voted 8 to nothing to enact their resolution.

It's also important to stress for the record: I do not speak for the members of the Dillon City Council. I'm using Dillon's resolution to show parallels between theirs and the State resolution you are considering today.

As a self-employed person, a military veteran and a long time resident of Montana, I represent no local or state government; no corporation, national or transnational; no special interest groups or political party.

This committee has read and studied SJ19 so you well know its contents. I'd like to address two resolutions that caught my attention:

The first is to resolve that Montana agencies not use State resources or institutions for the enforcement of federal immigration matters that are the responsibility of the federal government.

And #2:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 59th Montana Legislature requests the Attorney General of Montana to compile and transmit to each member of the Legislature, at least once every 6 months, a summary of the information obtained pursuant to the legislative requests made in this resolution and, based on the information and any other relevant information, to include an assessment of the effect of federal antiterrorism efforts on the residents of Montana.

This analysis demonstrates to the nation that Montana will not tolerate a government conducting the people's business in secrete.

I urge this committee to endorse this resolution as written, thus, allowing the U.S.A. Patriot Act to expire.

Mike Mosolf