

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 775**

My personal experience with Wireless issues has been interesting and not without some "tense" moments. Our state is huge in square miles and sparsely populated, and as Senator Burns is fond of saying, "there is a lot of dirt between the light bulbs." Bringing cellular technology has been, and continues to be expensive not only for the providers, but for the PSAP's as well. It is very easy to see that considerable capital investment is required to obtain the saturation that users expect. Montana is obviously a state that does not provide cost recovery for vendors. That certainly eases the burden on PSAP's but it also makes it more difficult for providers to justify build-out without a mechanism for recovering those capital costs.

Gallatin County was/is the "Model Community" for the state under the Project Locate initiative championed by APCO. We were the first community in the state to provide Phase I technology. That was exciting for Gallatin and a proud moment for the State. In order for us to provide Phase II service we had to upgrade our Computer Premise Equipment to enable us to process the Phase II calls. That was a \$194,000 investment. We have requested Phase II service from our vendors and expect to be live with that capability next month.

On behalf of Gallatin County I support HB 775 because it gives impetus to vendors to broaden their infrastructure because there will be an ability to recover some of those build-out costs. In addition, we as PSAP's have the opportunity to gain by obtaining a share of the monies collected for improving our communications resources that would otherwise not be an option.

In short, I believe this is a win-win for both parties. I recognize there are some objections and concerns, but I believe these can be overcome and worked out satisfactorily to the benefit of everyone.

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Gallatin County/City of Bozeman 9-1-1