



Affiliated with AFL-CIO
International Association of Fire Fighters

MONTANA STATE COUNCIL OF

PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

Senate Local Govt. Comm.
Exhibit No. 6
Date 1-20-05
Bill No. 184

January 20, 2005

The Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters urges you to support SB 184.

Fire fighters, police officers, and emergency medical responders are the front line responders in homeland security.

Currently most of the fire departments in Montana do not meet the current National Fire Protection Association standards for minimum staffing for fire companies. This is a result of the inability of local communities to generate the needed revenues to pay for the number of fire fighters needed out of existing budgets.

The provisions in this bill would allow communities to ask the voters to raise the needed revenue to adequately staff their fire departments to provide for the safety of the public and the fire fighters.

New Federal legislation can provide matching money for fire fighter staffing, equipment, and training, but most of our communities cannot afford the required match. By using this new source of revenue, this match could be possible, and our local emergency responders would be better prepared to defend our communities.

Thank you and we ask you to vote do pass on SB 184.

Pat Clinch, Legislative Chairman

Senate Local Govt. Comm.
Exhibit No. 6
Date JANUARY 20, 2005
Bill No. 184