

Comments on HB 342

Greetings Senators and Committee Members:

I am William C. Hollenbaugh and I have lived at 4414 Timberlane in Missoula, MT. for more than 30 years. I am retired, on a fixed income like many of my friends and neighbors in the Rattlesnake Valley. I am rapidly approaching the age where I could be judged by the courts to be a useless burden on society. Until then I vote and I demand my right to be heard.

I support HB 342 in concept and fact in that it changes the required protest percentage for sewer projects from 75% to a simple majority. The sewer project that directly affects me would cost more than \$20,000 over a 20-year period. That is almost half of the original cost of my home. I would be 98 when the proposed Rattlesnake sewer is paid off and many seniors in the project area are likewise affected. This is a major life-altering proposal.

Now lets look at the project. Missoula's sewer system is by far the worst polluter on the Clark River and the Rattlesnake sewer and other proposed sewer extensions would further decrease water quality in the Clark Fork River. These and other charges have been meticulously documented by members of the Rattlesnake Coalition in research and reports too numerous to mention. However, the rogue planners and engineers have chosen to completely ignore all of our data and have submitted reports and environmental analyses based on supposition and false information. Having worked on planning and environmental studies for more than 20-years, my evaluation of their data and reports show an obvious pattern of inadequate investigation, including faulty analyses and conclusions and in fact down right falsifications.

Reports and grant proposals for the Rattlesnake sewer project state that the majority of the residents support the project even though 70% of the landowners signed protest forms. Since when are 70% protests a minority to be ignored! In fact all inputs from impacted citizens were completely ignored in all public meetings and project documentations. Thus, we have been denied our constitutional right to participate in the future of our homes and neighborhoods. Please vote for HB 342, so we have an opportunity for input into our future and the ambiance of our homes and neighborhoods.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

William C. Hollenbaugh