

BEER TAX INCREASE -- MONTANA ?

- 1. Montana's economy receives a major boost from the beer industry: growing barley and malting barley.**
- 2. In 2004, 23 states considered increasing the excise tax on beer – with no bills passing. Historically, very few states raise the beer tax in any given session.**
- 3. Do not give the “Beer is Good Economy” theme which is developing in Montana a black eye by being one of a very few states (if any) which pass any increase.**
- 4. Montana's excise tax level is right in line with neighboring and western states.**
- 5. More than 40% of a beer's retail price is taxes.**
- 6. Higher taxes cause responsible drinkers to stop buying beer, but won't stop those who are dangerous.**
- 7. Why should beer drinkers (a legal product) be asked to fund treatment of meth and cocaine addicts?**
- 8. We are in a session of surplus: \$ 300 million est. There was no increase in beer taxes last session with a deficit of about the same magnitude only in the red (despite two bills to raise alcohol taxes).**
- 9. Governor Schweitzer has said “No new taxes.”**

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