60th Legislature HJ0032.01

1	HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32
2	INTRODUCED BY D. MCALPIN
3	
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO AND FUNDING FOR PUBLIC
6	TRANSPORTATION.
7	
8	WHEREAS, transportation is essential for all residents of Montana to gain access to necessities of every
9	kind, including jobs, schools, health care facilities, and life's social and survival needs; and
10	WHEREAS, public transportation agencies across Montana provide services that enable thousands of
11	Montana residents to meet their daily transportation needs without the use of automobiles; and
12	WHEREAS, the increased use of public transportation in Montana results in decreased congestion on
13	our roads and freeways, makes more efficient use of transportation funds and infrastructure, decreases
14	Montana's dependency on fossil fuels, and contributes to improved air quality; and
15	WHEREAS, demographic data and ridership statistics derived from public agencies and service providers
16	across Montana show that a large percentage of riders live in households with below average income levels or
17	are seniors and adults with disabilities and that these riders do not have any means, other than public transit, to
18	get to jobs, schools, medical care, shops and markets, and municipal and other governmental facilities; and
19	WHEREAS, demographic data and ridership statistics derived from public agencies and service providers
20	across Montana show that the remaining riders who use public transportation in Montana choose to do so for
21	social, economic, and environmental reasons; and
22	WHEREAS, an estimated 30% of Montanans do not drive; and
23	WHEREAS, the demand for public transportation services across Montana is increasing at a rate that
24	far exceeds the rate of increase in local, state, and federal operating and capital assistance.
25	
26	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
27	STATE OF MONTANA:
28	That the State of Montana support efforts to:
29	(1) increase local, state, and federal funding for public transit in order to increase the availability of public
30	transportation services to all Montana residents;

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(2) expand the level and quality of public transportation choices, such as passenger rail, rural, and urban bus transit, car and van pool, and paratransit services throughout Montana, resulting in more accessible, convenient, and affordable public and private transportation for all Montanans; and

(3) create strong incentives that are available to all Montana residents and businesses for using modes of transportation that reduce traffic congestion, conserve resources, improve community health, and build a prosperous economic climate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature endorse the inclusion of public transit as an essential element in any statewide energy policy developed by the Legislative or Executive Branch of Montana state government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature recognize public mass transit in Montana as a propitious testing ground for the use of alternative fuels and for testing equipment that reduces emissions and improves air quality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the United States Secretary of Transportation, Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, and Montana's Congressional Delegation.

17 - END -

