

EXHIBIT 002/002 11
DATE 4-2-07
SB 451300 South Merrill
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March 27, 2007

Dear Representative,

I listened to the testimony on SB 451 and am very concerned with what I heard. Basically the insurance industry is trying to use smoke and mirrors to cover up this problem. Literally all the opponent testimony had no basis in fact and simply was conjecture. Specifically they indicate that this is not a large problem as there were only 5 properties in the last 5 years. I would dispute this number and ask where they came up with it.

I can attest to the fact that this has been and will continue to be a problem in Glendive and I presume all other Cities and Towns in Eastern Montana. Because of this Representative Lenhart proposed a similar bill during the 2005 session. This bill was tabled with the promise that the insurance industry would work with local governments to find a resolution to this problem. The industry did not do as they promised but rather just try to kill any real progress with regard to resolving this very real problem.

In my opinion everyone is missing the real problem. From our standpoint the real problem is one of safety. The last one of these burned out buildings the City of Glendive had to deal with took over 5 years to get the structure demolished. In the mean time kids were playing in the basement of this dangerous structure. The owners of the building took the insurance proceeds and left leaving this mess and the liability to the City. We were fortunate no kids were seriously injured or killed during the 5 years it took to get permission through the courts to demolish the hazard.

Kids naturally gravitate to such structures and it is only a matter of time until someone is hurt.

Local Governments do not want the insurance money. Rather what we need is something to entice the property owners to deal with the problem. I do not agree that this is an isolated problem but let's suppose it is. If this legislation saves one child's life I think we would all agree it would be worth it. I would urge you to support SB451.

Sincerely,

Jerry Jimison