

TO: House Committee on State Administration

February 13, 2007

Introduction

Oppose bill for the following reasons:

FOUR MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH BILL

1. Least Costly Option is not defined. Does it include all items listed in Sec. 4?
2. Who decides between "Most Suitable Option" and "Least Costly Option plus 2%"?
3. 2% increase in state cost is automatic when Least Costly Option is considered!
4. Who decides what the boundaries are for the Downtown Area?

OTHER ISSUES WITH BILL

- Anti-competitive by definition
- Cost to administer program needlessly adds burden to State's limited resources
- Apples to Oranges comparison - downtown areas usually do not have off street parking, landscaping, on-site stormwater retention
- Some downtowns, like in Helena, are already subsidized. TIF district, street maintenance

Better for the community if the bill does not pass for the following reasons

- Reduces Political decision-making on selecting space
- Savings for employee's cost to park when "Least Costly Option" is considered
- Straight Competition is proven to work the best
- Downtowns usually have older structures - Cost to retrofit is State expense.
- Downtowns usually have older buildings - Newer buildings are safer.

THEREFORE, I URGE THE COMMITTEE TO VOTE AGAINST THIS BILL

Respectfully submitted,



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