



Lake County Commissioners

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# LAKE COUNTY

106 4th Avenue East

Polson, Montana 59860

January 24, 2007

2007 MONTANA LEGISLATURE  
Local Government Committee  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: Support for SB 244

Dear Members of the Committee:

Lake County supports SB 244, which was introduced by Sen. Weinberg to allow local governments to raise fines for violations of lakeshore protection standards.

The current maximum fine of \$500 is set forth in Sec. 75-7-216, MCA. This maximum fine is not prohibitive to most landowners and building contractors working on construction projects around Flathead and Swan Lakes. The Lake County Board of Commissioners and Planning Staff feel very strongly that a more substantial deterrent is needed to ensure the spirit of the regulations is met and to make the public recognize that the state and county are serious about guaranteeing the purpose of the regulations for all citizens.

Lakeshore violations often take substantial staff time and energy. <sup>By</sup> Increasing the maximum fine, SB 244 will hopefully allow the governing body to adequately penalize gross and repeat offenders to comply with the regulations in the future.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Hutchin, Member

Paddy Trusler, Member

Chuck Whitson, Chairman

LAKE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Sue Shannon, Director

Don Wood, Lakeshore Protection Administrator

cc: Senator Verdell Jackson  
Senator John Brueggeman  
Representative Jana Taylor  
Representative William Jones