

BUSINESS REPORT

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Time: 3:00 pm

Place: Capitol

Room: 102

BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:

Prefix (HB, HR, HJR, SB, SR, or SJR) and number. Add Postponed (PP) when appropriate:

HB 143, HB 152, HB 259, , SB 117

EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

Prefix (HB, HR, HJR, SB, SR, or SJR) and number. Enter P(pass) F(failed) DPAA (do pass as amended) BC(be concurred in) BCAA (be concurred in as amended):

COMMENTS:



REP. Jon C. Sesso, Chairman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 Roll Call
 APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: 2/4/09

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT/ EXCUSED</u>
Rep. Hiner	X	
Rep. McNutt	X	
Rep. Villa	X	
Rep. Roberts	X	
Rep. Henry	X	
Rep. Steenson	X	
Rep. Nooney	X	
Rep. McChesney	X	
Rep. Getz	X	
Rep. Hawk	X	
Rep. Kasten	X	
Rep. Morgan	X	
Rep. Hollandsworth	X	
Rep. Ankney	X	
Rep. Pease-Lopez	X	
Rep. Hollenbaugh	X	
Rep. Mehlhoff	X	
Rep. Jones		X <i>excused</i>
Rep. Glaser	X	
Chairman Sesso	X	

**Montana House of Representatives
Visitors Register**

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Date Feb. 4th 09

Bill No. HB 152

- Sponsor(s) Rep. Robin Hamilton

PLEASE PRINT

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Name and Address	Representing	Support	Oppose	Inf.
Tom Schultz	DNRC			X
Tony Plette	DOC	X		
Kelly CASILLAS	DOC	X		
MARTY Tuttle	DOC	X		
Eric Burke	MEA - MET	X		
Dave Purner	WKEP	X		
Pan Anderson	OPT	X		
Jan Lombardi	Gracie	✓		
Joe Dannett Rad	JOV SAM	✓		
LANCE MELTON	MTSBA	✓		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING
STATE OF MONTANA

EXHIBIT AD

DATE 3/4/09

HB 259

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



CAPITOL BUILDING - P.O. Box 200802
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0802

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Mendenhall
Representative Sesso, Chair
Members of the Appropriations Committee

From: *David Ewer* David Ewer, Budget Director

Re: *David Ewer* Opposition to HB 259, Income tax credit for volunteer firefighters

Date: February 4, 2009

Dear Representative Mendenhall and members of the committee: Given budget constraints, I respectfully go on record as opposing HB 259 for fiscal reasons. My opposition is not based on any intrinsic merits of HB 259.

The Executive Budget currently has a structural surplus, however, unlike the 2007 Session, which had over \$80 million in projected revenues over the Administration's ongoing general fund expenditure proposals, the current budget is very tight. While the Administration insisted on a spending cap to preserve the structural surplus of \$80 million, the modification or rejections of some Administration proposals created substantial fiscal 'space' for other legislative priorities.

The Schweitzer Administration fully understands and respects the legislative process and a legislator's prerogative to achieve any legislation he or she so desires. Given that it is very early in the 2009 session and this bill's hearing date, it is certain that the legislature will take later action that will either free up or additionally constrain budget capacity. But again, the importance of maintaining a basic level of public safety, health, and education service levels require this opposition.

This letter is intended to benefit, not impede communications. I am eager for any feed back as to how we can maximize effective communications.