BUSINESS & LABOR
EXHIBIT NO. 6
DATE 1-28-09
BILL NO. SB254

MONTANA STATE AFL-CIO

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January 28, 2009

Testimony of
Jim McGarvey, Executive Secretary, Montana State AFL-CIO
In Opposition to SB 254 – Remove inflation index from minimum wage law

Senate Business, Labor and Economic Affairs Committee
Joe Balyeat, Chair

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee; my name is Jim McGarvey and I am the Executive Secretary of the Montana State AFL-CIO. My testimony today is on behalf of more than 36,000 Montana union members and their families.

Union families are opposed to this regressive legislation that undermines the vote of the vast majority of Montanans. In the 2006 election Montana voters ushered the Raise Montana initiative (I-151) into law with an **astounding seventy three percent** support; winning an unprecedented majority in EVERY COUNTY IN OUR STATE.

Montana voters made their wishes clear when they passed the minimum wage initiative with the annual cost of living adjustment. Montanan's agree that workers need a fair wage that can support a family. Almost two hundred and eighty six thousand Montana voters spoke loudly on election night in 2006 when they passed the current minimum wage law with the built-in annual cost of living adjustment for ALL MONTANA WORKERS. There were no exceptions.

I urge you to respect the voters of Montana and **oppose SB 254.**

MINIMUM WAGE HISTORY

STATE MINIMUM WAGE

$1.60/hr	(7/1/1971 to 6/30/1975)
$1.80/hr	(7/1/1975 to 6/30/1976)
$2.00/hr	(7/1/1 976 to 6/30/1981)
$2.50/hr	(7/1/1981 to 6/30/1982)
$2.75/hr	(7/1/1 982 to 9/30/1985)
$3.05/hr	(10/1/1985 to 9/30/1986)
$3.35/hr	(10/1/1986 to 3/31/1990)
$3.80/hr	(4/1/1 990 to 3/31/1991)
$4.00/hr*	(4/1/1991 to 4/25/1991)
$4.25/hr*	(4/26/1991 to 9/30//1996)
$4.75/hr*	(10/1/1996 to 8/31/1997)
$5.15/hr*	(9/1/1997 to 12/31/2006)
$6.15/hr*	(1/1/2007 to 12/31/2007)
$6.25/hr*	(1/1/2008 to 7/23/2008)
$6.55/hr*	(7/24/2008 to 12/31/2008)
$6.90/hr*	(Effective 1/1/2009)
$7.25/hr*	(Effective 7/24/2009)

* or $4.00 for businesses grossing $110,000 or less per year.

FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

$1 .60/hr (1968 to 4/30/1 974)

Employment covered by 1961 amendments to FLSA:

$2.00/hr effective 5/1/1 974
$2.10/hr effective 1/1/1975
$2.30/hr effective 1/1/1975

Employment covered by 1966-1972 amendments:

$1.90/hr	effective 5/1/1974
$2.00/hr	effective 1/1/1975
$2.20/hr	effective 1/1/1976
$2.30/hr	effective 1/1/1977
$2.65/hr	effective 7/1/1978
$2.90/hr	effective 1/1/1979
$3.10/hr	effective 1/1/1980
$3.35/hr	effective 1/1/1981
$3.80/hr	effective 4/1/1990
$4.25/hr	effective 4/1/1991
$4.75/hr	effective 10/1/1996
$5.15/hr	effective 9/1/1997
$5.85/hr	effective 7/24/2007
$6.55/hr	effective 7/24/2008
$7.25/hr	effective 7/24/2009

http://erd.dli.mt.gov/laborstandard/documents/minimumwagehistory.pdf

2006 STATEWIDE GENERAL CANVASS - NOVEMBER 7th
COMPILED BY SECRETARY OF STATE BRAD JOHNSON

County	District Court District 16 Dept 1 Retain Gary Day Yes	District Court District 16 Dept 1 Retain Gary Day No	District Court District 16 Dept 2 Retain Joe Hegel Yes	District Court District 16 Dept 2 Retain Joe Hegel No	District Court District 17 Dept 1 Retain John McKeon Yes	District Court District 17 Dept 1 Retain John McKeon No	District Court District 18 Dept 1 Holly Brown	District Court District 18 Dept 1 Daniel Roth	District Court District 18 Dept 3 Retain John Brown Yes	District Court District 18 Dept 3 Retain John Brown No	District Court District 20 Dept 2 Retain Deborah Christopher Yes	District Court District 20 Dept 2 Retain Deborah Christopher No	District Court District 22 Dept 1 Retain Blair Jones Yes	District Court District 22 Dept 1 Retain Blair Jones No	Name of State Auditor to Insurance Commissioner For C-43	Name of State Auditor to Insurance Commissioner Against C-43	Increasing the Minimum Wage For I-151	Increasing the Minimum Wage Against I-151	Prohibit certain Officials from becoming Lobbyists For I-153	Prohibit certain Officials from becoming Lobbyists Against I-153
Total	9,401	1,561	9,069	1,919	5,947	1,722	17,953	12,038	23,742	3,798	11,814	2,882	9,987	2,584	133,219	237,367	285,535	107,294	288,098	93,291
Beaverhead															1,485	2,183	2,707	1,187	2,811	963
Blaine					2,013	555									779	1,700	1,907	655	1,606	865
Carbon													3,762	668	1,549	2,985	3,347	1,421	3,562	1,098
Cascade															10,063	17,895	22,039	7,281	21,480	6,785
Custer	4,087	403	3,927	471											1,641	2,587	3,158	1,343	3,179	1,228
Dawson															1,354	2,275	2,648	1,111	2,651	1,044
Fallon	912	152	953	197											405	714	829	387	750	384
Flathead															10,352	20,352	23,136	9,661	25,141	6,748
Garfield	442	73	428	65											153	361	334	225	363	159
Golden Valley															141	314	320	154	329	133
Hill															2,093	3,406	4,269	1,428	4,132	1,432
Judith Basin															307	731	715	392	700	348
Lewis & Clark															11,003	14,540	18,927	7,695	18,761	7,245
Lincoln															2,070	4,520	5,174	1,846	5,292	1,517
McCone															290	636	654	342	685	280
Mineral															500	944	1,170	379	1,178	340
Musselshell															600	1,397	1,382	688	1,435	588
Petroleum															50	199	145	110	171	75
Pondera															824	1,565	1,859	671	1,771	671
Powell															752	1,634	1,786	725	1,693	737
Ravalli															5,617	11,307	13,286	4,704	14,103	3,357
Roosevelt															1,255	2,147	2,883	741	2,165	1,249
Sanders											3,666	797			1,264	3,322	3,654	1,172	3,616	1,079
Silver Bow															4,734	8,680	11,408	2,579	10,221	3,381
Sweet Grass															558	1,015	1,073	582	1,191	418
Toole															594	1,279	1,381	549	1,318	549
Valley					2,458	821									1,117	2,066	2,418	1,041	2,386	935
Wibaux															143	272	309	154	296	126