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SENATE/FINANCE & CLAIMS

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Date 2-17-09

Bill No. HB 13 Linda McCulloch  
Secretary of State

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HB 13 State Employee Pay Plan  
Senate Finance and Claims, Room 317  
February 17, 2009 @ 5 PM  
Secretary Linda McCulloch's Testimony

Good afternoon Mr. Chair, members of the committee.  
For the record, I am Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch.

I am here today to support House Bill 13, the State Employee Pay Plan. Many thanks to Rep. Hunter for bringing forth this bill.

State employees provide a number of critical services to the folks of Montana.

It is no secret that we are faced with the harsh reality of a struggling economy and state budget shortages. This economic downturn has led the majority of state union members to negotiate and agree on the pay plan provided by House Bill 13. Those of us who have negotiated contracts for our co-workers know of the difficult position this economy put those negotiators in.

I wish I was here today supporting a much higher increase for all state employees, certainly they deserve it.

I stand behind this negotiated agreement, because it honors the agreement reached between State Employees and Governor Schweitzer.

State employees have had to make a difficult decision regarding their negotiated agreement. In support of state employees, I have announced that I will forego my pay increase that is due to go into effect this summer.

Please pass House Bill 13 as written.  
Thank you for your time.