SENATE TAXATION
EXHIBIT NO. 7
DATE 3.4.09
BILL NO. SB456

S B 456; do pass

Michael DesRosier [mjdesr@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 10:17 PM

To: blacks@3rivers.net; jeff essman [jeff@jeffessman.com]; garybranae@gmail.com; gebby@midrivers.com; glonky@aol.com; ron.senate@gmail.com; taylor@northernbroadcasting.com; tutvedt@montanasky.us; wranglergallery@hotmail.com

Cc: shannon augare [shannonjaugare@aol.com]; Harold Blattie; ron doore [wvwmt@yahoo.com]; carol juneau [csjuneau@3rivers.net]

Dear committee members;

I am writing to let each of you know how the Glacier County Commissioners, (representing Glacier County) feel on the support of SB 456 and the issue of property tax of tribal govt. owned fee property within the boundries of the Blackfeet Reservation.

We have discussed this issue at length among the commissioners, with constituents and with Tribal officials and feel strongly that it is only fair that tribal owned property be exempt from Montana property taxes.

The amount of tax that would be paid to the county each year would be between 70 and 80 thousand dollars, not the thousands that have been added in as penalties and interest.

As for the payment in lieu of tax monies that Glacier County recieves, none is for tribal lands. Those monies are paid in lieu of the forest and park lands that are located in the county. This bill would not affect our PILT dollars.

Another issue that may come up is on the portion that schools get from Montana property tax, approx. 80%. this amount is about 1/8 of what school districts would recieve from PL 874 funds that go directly to the school district as a per student payment for each student living on tribal exempt property. This amount would be of far greater benefit to our local schools and students.

You may see a previous letter from myself representing Glacier County Government that supported SB 332 in the last legislature. Our stance has not changed.

As commissioners representing a majority of our constituents 13,500 in all, Glacier County is 11th in the state in population, we stand together in our full support of SB 456. please do the right thing and pass this bill.

Thank you;

Sincerely;

Michael DesRosier, Chairman, Glacier County Commissioners.