

Bonnie Lorang, General Manager
Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems
blorang@mitstel.com 406.594.9662

#3
EXHIBIT #3
DATE 1/10/2011
HB 22

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Bonnie Lorang. I am general manager of MITS, MT Independent Telecom Systems.

MITS members are Montana providers, both cooperative and regulated companies. All provide landline telecommunications service to consumers located in over two thirds of Montana's geographic area. They serve extremely rural, frontier, sparsely populated areas of the state. Three of MITS members have wireless affiliates.

MITS and its members have a long history of supporting the 911 and E911 programs. For many years, MITS served on the 911 Advisory Council.

The Montana 911 office has garnered respect on both state and federal levels. Through the leadership of its program manager, Becky Berger, and her staff, consumers in Montana increasingly have more and more access to 911 and E911.

The areas that lag in access are those in the most frontier and rural areas, where the costs incurred by the counties and the providers for E911 readiness are the most challenging. Montana has made incredible progress in wireless E911 deployment. We're not quite there yet.

Maintaining the current level of funding allocations to the areas having less than 1% of the state's total population for four more years is good public policy.

MITS and its members stand in support of the HB 22 and urge a due pass. Thank you.

EXHIBIT #3
DATE 1/10/2011

HB 22



Bonnie Lorang
General Manager

2021 Eleventh Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
406.594.9662 (cell)
406.443.1940
E-Fax: 866.797.3138

blorang@mitsstel.com
www.mitsstel.com



Ron Ostberg



2021 Eleventh Avenue
Suite 12
Helena, MT 59601

(406) 868-9335 (c)
rostberg@nemont.net
www.mitsstel.com