EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1-7-2011
HB

"Protecting public safety is our #1 job."

Work That Matters

In the best of times, Gerry Kitchin's job as a correctional officer at the Montana State Prison is difficult and dangerous. Gerry relies on his training, 24 years of experience, and his fellow officers to get through every shift.

"When you walk in the door each day, you're one of the few free citizens among 1,430 inmates," Gerry says. "Whatever happens, you're the one responsible for the public's safety."

Making a tough job even tougher, Gerry's salary hasn't kept up with the cost of living.

"I stick with it because we officers take care of each other," he says. But he wonders who will replace him when he retires. The low salary no longer attracts enough qualified candidates for the job.

Montana needs unsung heroes like Gerry Kitchin. We're asking the legislature to find the revenue needed to keep Gerry, and other public employees, doing the work that matters for Montana.

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