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EXHIBIT 1
DATE Feb. 16, 2011
HB 375

February 14, 2011

TO: Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning
From: AARP Montana
Re: Oppose decrease funding in HB 375 towards senior citizens and persons with disabilities transportation services.

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,
AARP Montana, an organization with over 155,000 members in this state, believes that every citizen should have a safe, accessible, dependable, and affordable transportation. Cutting three percent will severely hamper many seniors from leaving their home.

The Montana Transportation Office explains that senior citizens are increasing their use of public transportation. Montana seniors want to remain active, but decreasing the budget for senior public transportation will keep many home bound. Joseph Bouchard, a 72 year-old Billings citizen, states that many seniors are left homebound for 10 days before they can buy groceries. Montanans are an aging population, helping citizens stay active and healthy is imperative.

While AARP was not able to attend the hearing on HB 375 we would like to voice our opposition. The senior and disability transportation is a necessary program that needs the .30% of the state revenue to stay afloat. Thousands of Montanans depend upon this program to stay active and be healthy. We urge you to not decrease the funding for senior and disability transportation services.

Sincerely,
AARP of Montana