

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2-15-11
HB 400



Gore Hill Fire / Rescue

4401 62nd Avenue SW

P. O. Box 895

Great Falls, Montana 59404

406-788-0222

To: Gary MaLaren, Chair
House Local Government Committee

From: Royce Shipley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Butch Weedon, Fire Chief *[Signature]*

Re: HB400

Date: February 15, 2011

Chairman MaLaren and members of the Committee:

We stand in opposition to House Bill 400. Our department currently bills responsible parties for responses to highway crashes. We do not bill residences of our fire district, as they are already paying for the service we provide. We have collected \$1200 over the past two years from a single charter bus crash which required extrication and which involved 5 injuries. We have billed three other crash responses and received no payment.

If passed, HB 400 would require that we shift more of the cost for crash responses to our property owners, and away from those who actually cause the incident and its ensuing expense. From a public policy standpoint, HB 400 makes no sense at all. We sincerely ask that you continue to allow local governments to make determinations about how best to fund fire and rescue services.

Thanks you for your attention to this matter.