



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

Comm
5/11/11
LINDA McCULLOCH #1

EXHIBIT
DATE *Jan 12 20 11*
HB *87*

HB 89: Eliminate req. for leg, state candidates to file reports locally
House State Administration, Rm 455
January 12, 2011 @ 8 AM
Secretary of State Linda McCulloch's Testimony

- Good morning Madam Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I am Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch.
- I am here today to support House Bill 89, with the necessary amendment to 13-37-201, as requested by the Commissioner of Political Practices.
- As proposed with the requested amendment, HB 89 will streamline the filing process for legislative and statewide candidates. It will also make the process more transparent to the public.
- The requirement to file campaign reports (C-1-A Form) with both the Commissioner of Political Practices and the county election office is not only confusing for candidates, it is no longer necessary due to the advance of electronic availability of the forms.
- County Election Administrators frequently report that candidates do not always complete their filing requirements with the county election office.
***I'm sure none of you fall into this category! ☺
 - Current practice is for the County Election Administrator to simply logon to the Commissioner of Political Practices website and download the completed candidate form that should have also been filed in the county office. County Election Administrators say it's much easier than trying to track down the candidate.
- The Commissioner of Political Practices also cannot certify candidate names for the ballot to the Secretary of State until all required forms are filed with both the Commissioner's office and the county election office.

This unnecessarily drags out the process until the last hour before the deadline.

- As the state's Chief Elections Officer, I urge you to eliminate this repetitive candidate filing requirement to further enhance the election process in Montana.
- Thank you for your time today.