



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

EXHIBIT # 34
DATE Feb 3 2011
RE 330
LINDA McCULLOCH

HB 330: Require Option for Perm Absentee on Reg Forms
House State Administration, RM
February 3, 2011 @ 8:00 a.m.
Secretary Linda McCulloch's Testimony

- Good morning Madam Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.
- I stand in support of House Bill 330, because it is another good bill for Montana voters.
- Providing voters the option to choose to be on the permanent absentee list when they register to vote saves time and resources.
- As Representative Bennett has already mentioned, some of the state's largest counties already include the option on their voter registration cards.
 - Voters love the convenience.
 - Election administrators love the ease and efficiency.
 - And we love that it provides Montana voters more streamlined access to vote by absentee ballot.
- The reality is that the majority of this committee votes-by-mail.
 - In fact, 10 of you were on the 2010 absentee list and have ballots automatically mailed to you.
- You know through experience that voting by absentee ballot is secure. You wouldn't vote by mail if you honestly believed there was rampant voter fraud in Montana.
- Let's work together to make registering to vote and signing up for the absentee list uncomplicated and easily accessible for ALL Montana voters.
- Vote "yes" for HB 330. Thank you for your time.