



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

LINDA McCULLOCH

EXHIBIT # 2
DATE 3-16-11
HJ 22

HJ 22: Interim Comm to Rate US Rep./Senators on Sovereignty
House State Admin, RM 455
March 16, 2011 @ 8 AM
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 oppose this resolution on the grounds that it encourages my office to include candidate information in the Voter Information Pamphlet, or VIP.
- The VIP is an educational tool used to inform Montana voters about election issues that will appear on a ballot. It is nonpartisan, and has never included information on candidates.
- It is also expensive.
 - Printing the VIP cost \$85,000 in 2006 and \$45,000 in 2008.
 - We worked hard to reduce the cost as much as possible, and in 2010, printed the VIP for roughly \$33,000.
- The printing cost does not include the hours spent drafting and designing the pamphlet, or the price counties pay to mail it to voters.
 - We've cut costs as much as we could, and every additional page will come at a price.
- Including candidate information in the VIP would be an inappropriate use of public resources. Not to mention, a possible violation of the rules of conduct for public employees. (MCA 2-2-121)
- There are better ways to spend taxpayer dollars. Vote "NO" for HJ 22.
- Thank you for your time.