

SINCE 1958

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BUSINESS &amp; LABOR

EXHIBIT NO. 1  
DATE 2-15-11  
BILL NO. SB 269

02/12/2011

Members of the State Business Committee,

I believe that Montana businesses will suffer as a result of this bill. If this bill passes Montana Manufactured Home dealers will be competing with non-profit community development organizations to provide Montana families affordable housing. These non-profits will have several advantages over private business including access to public money and lower overhead (since they are not required to stock any inventory.) I can envision a scenario in which a potential home owner is told to shop a local dealer to view the product and then return to the non-profit to order the home. The non-profit will be able to deliver a lesser priced home, but they will also deliver less quality. A dealer will have the staff to ensure proper set up and deliver as well as warranty the home after the sale. The non-profit would rely on the factory to service the home. The out of state factory could take months before service is provided.

It seems to me the out of state factory will be the only beneficiary of this bill. They will still sell a home in Montana, but the dealer will be cut out the picture and the home owner will suffer without a local dealer to service the product after the sale. This bill is bad for business in Montana.

Thank you,

  
Joel Jaspersen  
General Manager/ Member  
Rangitsch Brothers LLC