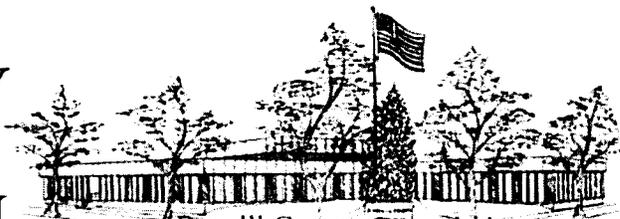
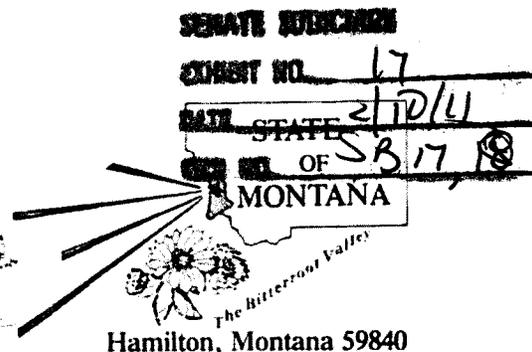


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT. 59840
406-375-6500
commissioners@ravalliacounty.mt.gov



February 9, 2011

Senate Judiciary Committee
C/O MACo

Dear Honorable Senate Judiciary Committee Members;

Please allow this letter to serve as our unanimous opposition to Senate Bill 17 and Senate Bill 18 that are being brought before your committee.

The reason for our opposition is based on the following:

- There are no checks and balances in the decision matrix
- If someone is fired incorrectly, the county is still responsible
- Other elected officials do not have the same autonomy
- Juvenile detention personnel requires a different skill set and expertise than adult detention personnel
- If passed, these decisions divide the relationship between the Sheriff and Commissioners
- The bills do not address the financial implications, which will likely fall upon the counties
- There is likelihood that the Sheriff would need their own insurance policy and Human Resource Staff
- The bills do not address where the funds come from for settlements and judgment
- The bills give expenditure authority without budget authority
- These bills are in response to one issue in one county
- County contracting authority for detention facility is removed

Thank you for carefully considering these bills and our opposition based upon the above concerns.

Respectfully submitted in behalf of the Ravalli County Commissioners.


J.R. Iman, Chairman