



CITY OF BELGRADE

91 E. CENTRAL
BELGRADE, MT 59714

March 7, 2011

Senate Local Government Committee
Senator Jon Sonju, Chairman
Senator Art Wittich, Vice Chairman
Senator Shannon Augare
Senator Edward Buttrey
Senator Steve Gallus
Senator Lynda Moss
Senator Alan Olson
Senator Bruce Tutvedt
Senator Gene Vuckovich

Re: HB 231

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Russell Nelson. I am Mayor of the City of Belgrade, Montana. I am writing to ask you to oppose HB 231. The City Council of the City of Belgrade opposes HB 231.

The bill could potentially have negative impacts on our City. The City of Belgrade is currently a Class 3 City. The 2010 census may show our population at greater than 8,500 residents making us a Class 2 City. The current law states that Class 2 Cities must have a paid fire department. Belgrade currently has a contract with Central Valley Fire to provide fire services for the City of Belgrade. We have a long-standing relationship with Central Valley Fire. However they want more money from us. We feel we can run our own paid fire department at a much lower cost. HB 231 could make this transition much more difficult and could potentially increase the costs to the citizens of Belgrade.

Please help us save money for the citizens of Belgrade by voting no on HB 231.

Thank you for your service to Montana.

Sincerely,

Russell C. Nelson
Mayor of Belgrade