

Steve Kilbreath
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Subdivision Section
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Testimony for SB 8

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee my name is Steve Kilbreath and I represent the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. I am the Section Supervisor for the Subdivision Section; we are responsible for review of all subdivisions in the State under the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act. We review the water, wastewater, storm drainage and solid waste facilities in all subdivisions with lot sizes less than 20 acres. Public water and wastewater systems are extremely important in the protection of public health so I am here today to provide testimony supporting SB 8.

- The definition of public system is one that serves at least 25 people daily for 60 days out of the year or has 15 service connections.
- The Water Policy Interim Committee has been in existence for the last 4 years and has put forth a great deal of energy and hard work in taking on all the difficult water issues in the State. DEQ has attended all the Water Policy Interim Committee meetings and one of the issues we heard loud and clear was that local government wanted a mechanism to promote both public water and wastewater systems during the subdivision process. SB 8 simply clarifies the existing mechanism for local government to require public water and wastewater systems for subdivisions. When dealing with rules, regulations and laws clarification is always a good thing.
- Subdivisions with public water supply systems are more protective of public health because they have a certified operator and are monitored monthly for bacteria, annually for nitrate, and chemical and radiological monitoring on a 3-9 year basis.
- Subdivisions with public wastewater systems that treat at least 5,000 gallons per day must have ground water discharge permits issued by DEQ that contain quarterly monitoring requirements of the discharge and the groundwater down-gradient of the system. This monitoring data is submitted to DEQ so problems with the system malfunctioning can be caught and fixed in a timely fashion.