

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

May 12, 2011

Bill Text w/Gov Line-Item Veto

The Honorable Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Secretary McCulloch:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby deliver to you House Bill No. 5 (HB 5), "**AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATING TO CAPITAL PROJECTS; APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2013; PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATIONS; PROVIDING FOR A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE LONG-RANGE BUILDING PROGRAM ACCOUNT TO THE STATE GENERAL FUND; REVISING REQUIREMENTS FOR CIGARETTE TAX REVENUE; AMENDING SECTION 17-7-205, MCA; AMENDING SECTION 2, CHAPTER 3, SPECIAL LAWS OF MAY 2007, SECTION 2, CHAPTER 478, LAWS OF 2009, AND SECTION 6, CHAPTER 478, LAWS OF 2009; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE,**" which I have signed into law with one item "struck-out," or vetoed.

The budget I submitted to the Legislature included reductions to information technology (IT) projects authorized by previous legislatures. My budget also transferred the resulting savings, totaling \$10.7 million, to the general fund. These proposals were contained in House Bill 10, Reducing Information Technology Appropriations.

The Legislature, however, took \$5.975 million of the \$10.7 million in savings I had proposed in my budget in order to fund its own IT project in HB 5. My item veto strikes this \$5.975 million appropriation to the Legislature from HB 5, along with the accompanying narrative.

The executive branch has numerous IT needs that will be unfunded next biennium in order that we prioritize spending money on the state's core services. For the same reasons I chose not to fund these previously authorized IT projects within the executive branch, I believe now is *not* the time to fund a nonessential IT project within the legislative branch.

I believe this is especially true where, for the first time in Montana's history, the Legislature refused to fund the pay plan negotiated between the administration and state workers. This failure by the Legislature, coming on the heels of the pay freeze for state workers in the current biennium, makes my decision to veto the IT appropriation to the Legislature easy. Shame on the Republican majority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer".

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

cc: Legislative Services Division