

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1/23/13
HB 13

From: william kennedy <irishkennedy@bresnan.net>
To: Robyn Driscoll
Subject: Date: Jan 23, 2013 7:15 AM

Senator Driscoll,
Could I have you read another letter for me on the state pay plan.
Thanks,
Bill Kennedy
Yellowstone County Commissioner

Dear Committee Members,
My name is Bill Kennedy, a Yellowstone County Commissioner. I am sorry I could not be there today and I want to thank my good friend Senator Robyn Driscoll for reading my testimony.

During the last year 4 years the state employees have known the effects of a tight budget and have worked with the administration. Their salaries were frozen and work went on for the state of Montana. Now with budget surpluses, now is the time to compensate these employees.

Over 800 state employees not counting the University, live in Yellowstone County. These employees shop, pay taxes and spend their dollars in our county. The economic outlook and your surplus would bode well to raise the wages on your state employees who have waited patiently for an economic upswing.

We were able to give our employee raises at the county level even though our budgets are still very tight. The cost of food, utilities and housing is rising and they need to keep up with the cost of living.

The increases will benefit our businesses in our county. Every dollar circulated will make the rounds 7 times. This is truly a benefit to small businesses.

Please vote yes on the negotiated pay raise.

Thankyou,

Bill Kennedy
Yellowstone County Commissioner