



BUTTE-SILVER BOW

Office of Council of Commissioners

Courthouse

Butte, Montana 59701

EXHIBIT 6

DATE 02/22/13

HB 2

February 13, 2013

Chairman Ryan Osmundson
General Government
Joint Appropriations Sub-Committee
FAX: 406-444-4249

RE: *MT Votes System*

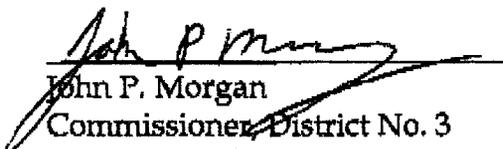
Dear Sir,

We, the Council of Commissioners for Butte-Silver Bow County, would like to express our support for the MT Votes System. This system is in use in all 56 counties and has become a comprehensive system for registering voters, tracking voting history, processing required mailings, processing petitions and issuing and tracking absentee ballots. This system is continually improving through the work of the Montana Election and Technology Advisory Committee.

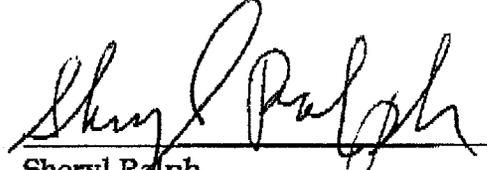
We believe the cost of maintaining this system should be a cost of state government and funding that our legislative body should support. Please accept this letter as a letter of support for the MT Votes System.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

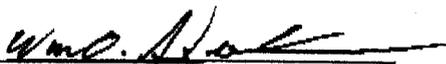
Sincerely,

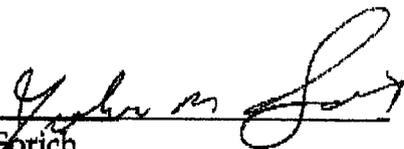

John P. Morgan
Commissioner, District No. 3

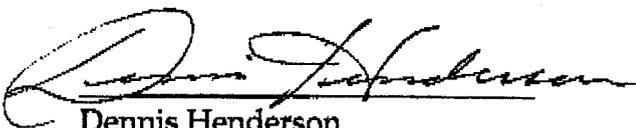

Mark Moodry
Commissioner, District No. 1

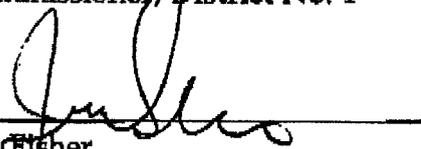

Sheryl Ralph
Commissioner, District No. 2


Dave Palmer
Commissioner, District No. 12

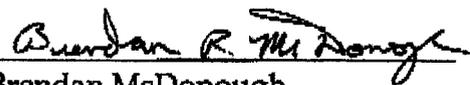

William O. Andersen
Commissioner, District No. 10

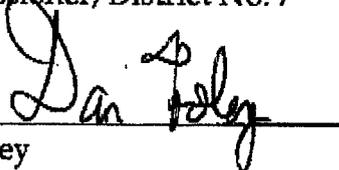

John Sorich
Commissioner, District No. 4

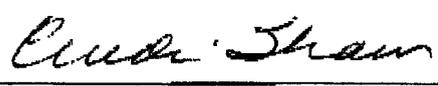

Dennis Henderson
Commissioner, District No. 5


Jim Fisher
Commissioner, District No. 6


Bud Walker
Commissioner, District No. 7


Brendan McDonough
Commissioner, District No. 8


Dan Foley
Commissioner, District No. 9


Cindi Shaw, Chairman
Commissioner, District No. 11

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. BOX 278

VIRGINIA CITY, MT 59755

Commissioners

David Schulz
Dan Happel
James P. Hart

e-mail: madco@madison.mt.gov
www.madison.mt.gov

Phone: (406)843-4277
Fax: (406) 843-5517

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February 5, 2013

Ryan Osmundson, Chair
Joint Appropriations Subcommittee
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

RE: MT VOTES Statewide Voter Registration System

Dear Chairman Osmundson and Subcommittee members Alan Olson, Vice-chair, Edward Buttrey, Champ Edmunds, Kelly McCarthy, and David E. Wanzenried:

This letter is sent in support for legislative approval of funding for the MT VOTES statewide voter registration system through the Office of the Secretary of State.

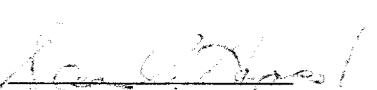
It is essential in our country's voting process to ensure accurate voter registration, voting history, petition processing, and absentee ballot issuing and tracking. MT VOTES has been Montana's system for those purposes since 2005-2006 and the maintenance for that system has been federally funded, until now. Shifting the financial federal mandate for this excellent program from the Federal Government to Montana Counties is untenable. For Madison County, for example, the cost for FY 2014 is estimated to be \$11,117.65. The remaining 55 MT Counties' estimated FY 2014 costs range between \$9,438.78 and \$32,263.28, for a total estimated cost of \$688,769.00.

We recognize the additional financial burden on Montana's budget. However, please keep in mind during your discussions that this system supports federal, state, county, and local voting processes; therefore, placing that disproportionate financial burden upon rural counties, like Madison County, simply cannot be sustained.

Thank you for your very serious consideration of the MT VOTES system. We urge your support and approval for state wide funding of the MT VOTES voter registration system through the Office of the Secretary of State.

Respectfully,


James P. Hart, Chairman
Board of Commissioners
Madison County


Dan A. Happel


David Schulz

Cc: Peggy Kaatz Stemler, Clerk and Recorder
Lisa Kemmet, Secretary of State's Office



MINERAL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PO Box 550
300 River Street
Superior, MT 59872
Phone (406) 822.3577
Fax (406) 822.3552
mccommissioners@co.mineral.mt.us

January 31, 2013

Dear Representative Schwaderer,

We are writing in support of Secretary of State, Linda McCullough's proposal to require maintenance costs of the MT Votes program included in House Bill 2. This was a federal program from 2003 (HAVA) Help America Vote Act. The system was established in 2005-2006.

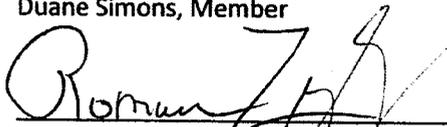
This system which is called MT Votes tracks registered voters, tracks history and petitions. The federal government funded this petition for four years and then intended to pass on the full cost to the counties. Counties like Mineral County cannot afford the additional 8 to 10 thousand dollars that this would add to election costs. The requested funding has been submitted and is currently in HB2, the Governor's budget bill for the 2014-2015 biennium.

We think that the cost of maintaining this system should be a cost of state government and funding that our legislative body should support, especially given the large surplus currently being carried. We encourage you to support House Bill 2 with this funding intact.

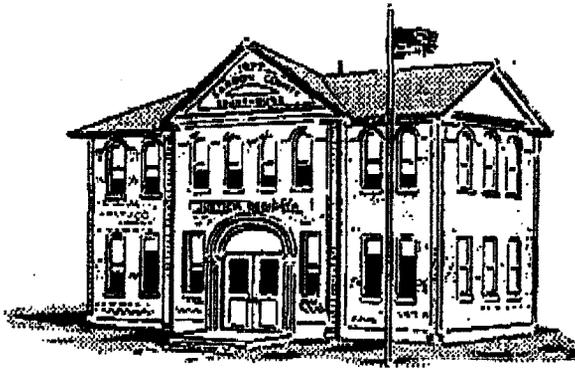
Sincerely,
Mineral County Commissioners


Laurie Johnston, Member


Duane Simons, Member


Roman Zylawy, Chairman

Cc: Jennifer Fielder
Lisa Kimmet, Deputy – Elections and Government Services Division



BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF CARBON • STATE OF MONTANA

Post Office Box 887
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Phone: (406) 446-1595
Fax: (406) 446-2640

January 28, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to express our strong support of Secretary of State Linda McCulloch's funding request for the ongoing support and maintenance of MT Votes. This voter registration system is an essential component to maintaining the integrity of the elections process. It provides a comprehensive system, utilized by all 56 Counties, for registering voters, tracking voting history, processing required mailings, processing petitions, and issuing and tracking absentee ballots. Currently the majority of elections that are held are State and Federal elections. We feel that this strengthens our request that serious consideration be given to the funding of MT Votes, now and in the future.

Sincerely,


John L. Grewell
Presiding Officer
Carbon County Board of Commissioners

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. BOX 278

VIRGINIA CITY, MT 59755

Commissioners

David Schulz
Dan Happel
James P. Hart

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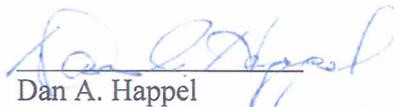
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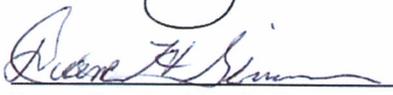
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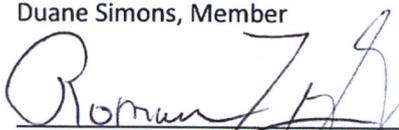
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Roman Zylawy, Chairman

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Lisa Kimmet, Deputy – Elections and Government Services Division