

EXHIBIT #1
DATE 4/9/2013
~~THE~~ Listening Session

April 9, 2013

Dear Senator Buttrey and Representative Bangetter.

Unfortunately due to distance, weather, and a meeting with our engineer concerning wastewater treatment plant design I cannot be present at this meeting. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to discuss the relationship between the Legislature and Cities, Towns and Counties across this state. For the most part I think we have a strong relationship. However as with anything there are always things which can be improved upon.

During my almost twelve years as Mayor of Glendive I have seen many instances where a good idea for Cities is voted down for no know reason except possibly political reasons. I believe a good example of this during the current session would be HB 452. This bill attempted to allow oil impacted areas the ability to place a fee on motel rooms to help fund impacts from those creating such impacts. In Glendive our dispatch center is fielding approximately 60% more calls than we did 4 years ago and this number continues to go up. This is only one small example of impacts from oil activity in our community. HB 452 Proposed a fee not unlike the resort tax currently allowed to offset impacts arising from tourism. The only difference I see between our impacts is that many of our tourists wear hardhats.

Some people contend that there is no oil boom in eastern Montana. I am not sure what the rig count is, how many holes are being drilled nor for that matter what actually constitutes an oil boom. What I do know is that we have impacts from what I can only assume is energy related activity as I see lots of pickups from all over the U.S. with oil company logo's, substantially increased traffic both in the City and on the highways, as well as lots of new faces. In addition to law enforcement and emergency service impacts housing and infrastructure is also being impacted.

I have lived in Glendive all my life and now when I go to the grocery store I don't know 90% of the people there. So maybe we aren't having an oil boom but something is happening that is impacting our City and it looks a lot like the oil boom of the late 1970's. Even if the rig count is not that high or there aren't that many holes being drilled on the Montana side at the current time there is lots of activity to the East which is spilling over into our communities and creating problems.

I know there are bills still out there which will help deal with infrastructure impacts and I am truly grateful for them. However these bills do not allow for impacts other than infrastructure such as emergency services. Thus if there is something which can improve the relationship between the Legislature and local governments I would say it would be for the Legislature to give us the tools we need to deal with these and other issues. The proposed impact grants are needed and we are hopeful they will materialize however they are only one tool needed to deal with such impacts. I hope you have a productive meeting and wish I could be there.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jerry Jimison

