



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

EXHIBIT 7
Smy DATE 02/05/2013
HB 329
LINDA McCULLOCH

HB 329: Prohibit State Employee Testimony
House State Administration, RM 455
February 5, 2013 @ 8 a.m.
Secretary Linda McCulloch's Testimony

Good morning Madam Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State. I strongly oppose this bill, because it is out of touch with how the legislative process works.

State agencies have a vested interest in the legislative process, as we are the ones charged with implementing a large number of the bills you consider. Tying our hands by denying us the option to support or oppose a bill just doesn't make sense.

Who are state agencies supposed to send to committee if not their employees? Are we to be expected to hire third party lobbyists, or ask our employees to use vacation time to do their jobs?

Not only do we not have the money, but it would be an HR nightmare if employees were required to use personal time for official state business. State agencies already require employees to use personal time to lobby on bills of personal interest, so I'm not sure what this bill is trying to prevent.

If you value public comment as an important part of the legislative process, I ask you to reject this bill and let us all do our jobs.