



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

EXHIBIT 1

DATE 02/20/2013

HB 510

LINDA McCULLOCH

HB 510: Eliminate Annual Absentee Ballot Forms
House State Administration, RM 455
February 20, 2013 @ 8 a.m.
Secretary of State Linda McCulloch's Testimony

Good morning Madam Chair, members of the Committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.

My support for this bill echoes what you've heard from the sponsor and counties.

Absentee voting has grown statewide by 45% in the past 12 years. In the 2012 General Election, counties distributed absentee ballots to more than 314,000 voters. Nearly 60% of the total votes were cast by absentee ballot.

As of November, there were nearly 250,000 voters on the Annual Absentee List. If all counties choose to not mail the address confirmation to these voters, we estimate the cost-savings to be around \$100,000. (The savings to counties would proportionately decrease as counties choose to mail out notices as needed.)

Streamlining the absentee ballot application process makes sense for voters and counties alike. I support giving counties the option to choose how to manage the process in their area. I'm here to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.