



## Montana Association of Counties

*Serving Montana Counties Since 1909*

2715 SKYWAY DRIVE, SUITE A, HELENA, MT 59602

(406) 444-4360 Fax (406) 442-5238

www.maco.cog.mt.us

EXHIBIT

DATE

HB

8

3-26-13

SB56

March 26, 2013

Chair Miller and Members of the House Taxation Committee,

The Montana Association of Counties sent a one-question survey to County Commissioner and County Treasurers asking whether their county supports or opposes Senate Bill 56. (Copy Attached)

The memo made the following request:

*I am writing to ask that Commissioners and Treasurers meet ASAP to discuss Senate Bill 56 and to let me know if your county will support or oppose SB 56. A simple one word response is all that is needed, yes or no. Feel free to add comments as you wish. (NOTE: A full copy of the e-mail MACo distributed is attached)*

MACo received responses from 46 counties, either commissioners, or the treasurer, or both. I have attached a summary, including the comments I received. In some counties, commissioners responded and in others treasurers responded. If it was not clear that the response represented the opinion of both the commission and treasurer, I only recorded the response for whom I received it from as supporting or opposing. In some cases, I could not tell whether the response supported or opposed..

Of the commissioners responding, 31 opposed, 6 supported and 3 were neutral, with the remaining either not responding or I could not discern an opinion from the response.

Of the Treasurers responding, 21 oppose, 7 support and 5 were neutral, with the remaining either not responding or I could not discern an opinion.

It is interesting to note that several counties indicated they would support the bill if it contained a provision requiring DOR to enter into a contract for services with each county in those counties that wish to place the non-levy specials on the county property tax records, as was being proposed in Floor Amendments when SB 56 was on Second Reading on the House Floor. However, those were not sufficient to change the overall results.

**It is unquestionably clear that the majority of County Commissioners and a significant number of Treasurers OPPOSE Senate Bill 56.**

MACo respectfully requests that Senate Bill 56 be tabled and the House Taxation committee requests the stakeholders to work together over the interim to determine if a solutions that is agreeable to the department, county governing bodies and county treasurers can be reached.

Thank you,

L Harold Blattie, Executive Director