SENATE JUDICIARY
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 3/5/13
BILL NO. HB224

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform (ILR) 2012 State Liability Systems Ranking Study

ILR's lawsuit climate report explores how reasonable and balanced the states' tort liability systems are perceived by U.S. business. The ranking measures several benchmarks:

- ✓ Having and Enforcing Meaningful Venue Requirements
- ✓ Overall Treatment of Tort and Contract Litigation
- ✓ Treatment of Class Action Suits and Mass Consolidation Suits
- ✓ Damages
- ✓ Timeliness of Summary Judgment or Dismissal
- ✓ Discovery
- ✓ Scientific and Technical Evidence
- ✓ Judges' Impartiality
- ✓ Judges' Competence
- ✓ Juries' Fairness

Montana has consistently ranked as one of the worst legal environments in the country. We dropped from 38th in 2008 to 43rd in 2010 (1st is best). As you can see, Montana continues to drop in the rankings for 2012.

Below are the 2012 rankings for Montana and neighboring and regional competitors.

Montana – 45th

Neighboring States:

Idaho – 6th
South Dakota – 11th
North Dakota – 8th
Wyoming – 3rd

Regional States:

Colorado – 23rd
Nevada – 37th
Oregon – 28th
Utah – 9th
Washington – 22nd

The U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform's entire report is available at http://www.instituteforlegalreform.com/states.