

March 18, 2013

Montana Senate Natural Resources Committee
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

**RE: Proponent for HB513
Exempt Oversize Load Permits from the Montana Environmental Policy Act**

Dear Natural Resources Committee,

I am the President and Owner of a highway construction company that works within and up to every border of Montana. I represent the paychecks, health insurance, and pensions of roughly 20 employees and their families. These paychecks not only go to homes in Great Falls and Bozeman, but also throughout the state as our crews spend approximately 37 weeks a year working and sleeping away from home.

I regret not being available for your meeting today, but offer this as my strong support for HB 513. Please consider the following:

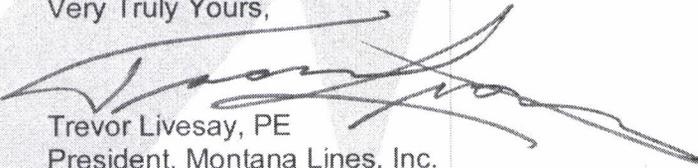
1. This Bill is for permitting the transport of pieces of steel larger than the usual pieces of steel on existing roads. It is not about hauling huge vats of crude oil or wind turbines, new road construction, or paving over or driving on wetlands.
2. I have personally worked with 7 transport companies moving oversized loads through, to, or from destinations in Montana. The consensus is that our permitting process is confusing and onerous, especially compared to our neighbors in the rural West. Most notable among their complaints is the questionability of an environmental review for driving across our state in 6 days, never leaving the Right of Way.
3. Specifically, 2 of the transport companies have specifically stated that IF they come this way again, they will go around Montana before they try to go through it again.

I previously testified as to how much sense this Bill makes at the House committee meeting. I recounted hearing firsthand how these transport companies have told me they will go around our State if it remains this difficult to go through it. Some of these loads, though, are manufactured in or are destined for installation in our state; for them there is no going around.

This Bill has nothing to do with the morality of tar sands, despite the opponent's attempts to make it so. It also has nothing to do with Imperial Oil or floodplains. It is about a proven, competent industry using a road for its intended purpose without repeating an environmental review that was done when the road was built.

Thank you; please vote YES on HB 513.

Very Truly Yours,


Trevor Livesay, PE
President, Montana Lines, Inc.