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SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 3

DATE 3-12-2013

BILL NO. SB 378

March 12, 2011

TO: Members of the Senate Taxation Committee
FROM: Joy Bruck, AARP Montana
RE: Support of SB 378

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Taxation Committee for the record, I'm Joy Bruck, State president of AARP Montana. We support SB 378 creating a state earned income tax credit. It will help keep working families out of poverty while helping our economy.

Almost half of our 50 states have enacted a state-level credit and it is time for Montana to do the same. 33,000 working Montana families are near or below the poverty line and this is unacceptable. If these hardworking people could receive the EITC, they would have the chance to establish financial security.

Right now, we live in a difficult economy. EITC would lift thousands of children and their families out of poverty. This bill is a chance for the Montana legislature to help low-wage workers support their families and they may not need to depend on public assistance.

There is a high participation rate for Earned Income Tax Credits. We think much higher than other low-income assistance programs. This is a good bill because, again, it could be a boost to our low income workers so we hope you, also, will support SB 378.