

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

May 5, 2015

The Honorable Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Secretary McCulloch:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 599 (HB 599), "AN ACT ALLOWING FOR PERMANENT REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN TRUCKS OVER 1 TON RATED CAPACITY AND CERTAIN TRUCK TRACTORS; EXTENDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-8-202, 61-3-303, 61-3-321, 61-3-332, 61-3-506, 61-3-537, 61-3-562, AND 61-6-158, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

HB 599 would allow permanent registration of heavy vehicles older than 11 years and having a manufacturer's rated capacity less than 55,000 pounds. While the revenue impact is positive in the 2017 Biennium, the long-term revenue effect is a reduction of several million dollars per year and growing exponentially thereafter. This reduction in revenue would negatively impact funds available to the Montana Highway Patrol Pay and Retention Fund and also diminish funds available for local communities who have chosen to use this fund for road maintenance and construction through the local option tax.

For these reasons, I veto HB 599.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock", written over a horizontal line.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

cc: Legislative Services Division
Austin Knudsen, Speaker of the House
Debby Barrett, President of the Senate