

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

April 24, 2015

The Honorable Debby Barrett
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

The Honorable Austin Knudsen
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear President Barrett and Speaker Knudsen:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto Senate Bill 145 (SB 145), "AN ACT REVISING THE ALLOCATION OF REVENUE FROM OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION TAXES AND USING THE PROCEEDS FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS IMPACT PROJECTS; DEFINING 'OIL AND GAS IMPACT PROJECTS'; ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR OIL AND GAS IMPACT PROJECT PROPOSALS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; PROVIDING FOR REVIEW OF OIL AND GAS IMPACT PROJECT PROPOSALS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; CREATING AN OIL AND NATURAL GAS IMPACT RELIEF ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTION 15-36-331, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

SB 145 proposes to divert an unknown amount of general fund revenue at an unknown time in the future to fund projects that are impossible to anticipate at this time. While the intent of the measure is no doubt laudable, the placement into law of a complicated formula that binds future legislatures to automatic diversions from the general fund without regard for either the financial standing of the state or the actual need for the programs that diversion proposes to fund is not sound public policy.

For these reasons, I veto Senate Bill 145.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

cc: Legislative Services Division
Secretary of State