

DATE 2-16-15
HB 475

Hearing HB 475

2/16/2015

Bozeman Public Schools

Oppose Bill

Concerns

- Per ANB funding versus the current per mile funding will result in a loss of State funding and an **increase** of approximately .75 mills in local taxes for Bozeman.
- We use propane not diesel, others use natural gas or gasoline, and therefore, the diesel price adjustment in HB475 doesn't make sense for us.
- Districts around the State are all geographic sizes with varying ANB per square mile with a wide range of road miles within each district. Therefore, a reimbursement system based on miles versus ANB is much more equitable to meet the unique transportation needs of each district.
- We have been told a concern is that the current system encourages the use of larger busses. We are not clear on why that is a concern; larger busses give districts more flexibility to meet their transportation needs.
- A better alternative to per ANB funding for transportation would be to establish a flat rate per mile instead of the current graduated scale. It has been many years since the State increased the rates per mile in MCA 20-10-141. The result is that local District transportation levies are paying much more of the cost. For this reason, if this flat rate alternative is considered, we recommend \$1.80 per mile, which is the current rate for 80 passenger and larger buses.