

EXHIBIT 1

DATE 2/9/15

HB 297

Feb 9, 2015

Dear Chair and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Mike Fellows, representing the Montana Libertarian Party. We rise in opposition to HB 297. HB 297 is simply a revenue enhancement bill designed to allow law enforcement to pull drivers over. Remember we already have careless and reckless driving laws that could be used for these distracted accidents.

One study I've see was released by the AAA Foundation of Traffic Safety, which analyzed 26,000 traffic accidents to determine the cause of these accidents. Among the top causes were outside objects, persons or events at 19.7 percent; eating and drinking in the car at 18.8 percent; adjusting the radio, CD or I-pod 11.4 percent; distractions by other occupants like kids in the car was 9.4 percent. Cell phone use was only 1.5 percent with last place going to smoking related distractions at 1.2 percent.

Compared to cell phone use, it is 12 times more likely you will cause an accident by snaking in your car.

Business people do rely on cell phone use for their business and can multi-task with out distractive driving.

In the end banning cell phone use is not about safety, but about revenue enhancement. I'd recommend a do not pass on HB 297. Thank you for your time.