

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 2/19/15
HB 504

HB504

Walt Zidack, Chairman, Board of Trustees Rae Fire Service Area

1+ year on the Rae Board

Resident of Montana since 1973

RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSOLIDATION

- Real dollar efficiencies are important, but equally important are the efficiencies of non-pecuniary political capital expenditures.
- Real dollar costs related to the delivery of fire response and other emergency services can be influenced by the expenditure of political capital.
 - i) Governance by two independent boards in the pursuit of a common mission requires added communication efforts. This added burden may be viewed as unacceptable to potential board participants.
 - ii) Stability of two boards pursuing a common mission is more fragile.
 - iii) Too many "cooks in the kitchen" may yield less than satisfactory results to the taxpayer.
 - iv) Administrators, employees, and volunteers can be faced with inconsistent board governance that may negatively affect job performance.
- Consolidation can provide a mechanism to some rural fire departments to realize improved governance at a reasonable level of political capital and real dollar expenditures.
- Expansion of an opportunity to realize the potential benefits to the state of Montana through consolidation can be addressed by filling this gap in existing law.

Walt Zidack
10700 Cottonwood Rd
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-539-4358