



*The Big Sky Country*

SENATE JUDICIARY

Exhibit No. 1

Date 2/6/15

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## SPONSOR'S REBUTTAL TO FISCAL NOTE

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House Bill Number: HB 25 Date Prepared: 1/17/2015

Short Title:

Sponsor: Rep. Margie MacDonald

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**Generally, why do you disagree with the fiscal note?**

I disagree that the Dept. of Corrections would need to apply for a federal grant in order to come up with vouchers for suitable housing for paroled inmates.

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**Specifically, what in the fiscal note do you feel is flawed?**

*(Describe specific assumptions, calculations, technical issues, etc.)*

The alternative housing for the offenders affected by this bill is incarceration for the same period, which costs either \$137,970 (MT State Prison) or \$142,452 (MT Women's Prison).

Thus, the actual savings for this legislation would be \$81,720 and \$86,202.

In addition, I reviewed housing markets in Helena (during the legislature session) and consulted with landlords from Billings and found that the \$3,752 is on the high end. I found a variation of \$2,400 - \$3,000 for 1 or 2 bedroom apartments. Helena during the Legislative session and Billings during an economic upturn both would be on the higher end of rental markets.

HB 25

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**What is your estimate of the fiscal impact?**

**HB 25 will save the state of Montana \$81,720 - \$86,202 per year.**

**Sponsor Signature:**

*Margaret E. Anderson*

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