

Exhibit No. 8Date: 2/23/15Bill No. HB 315

**Unfunded Federal Mandates Drain Montana Resources**  
*By Representative Bill Harris HD 29*

The Supreme Court ruled in 1997 in the *Mack and Printz v. United States* that the federal government *cannot* compel the state to act as its agent. Unfunded mandates that come from the federal government dictate the decree that the state of Montana must implement and pay for programs like the REAL ID Act and Common Core.

One of the issues I am most passionate about is protecting Montana's Constitutional rights under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which is why I have introduced the "Revise the Montana Federate Mandates Act." This bill is designed to revise the 1995 "Unfunded Mandates Reform Act" passed by the 1995 Montana legislature in order to provide mechanisms for the Montana Legislature to review and approve unfunded mandates handed down from the federal government.

The bill enjoyed overwhelming support in both the House Judiciary Committee and passed with strong support in the Montana House of Representatives and will soon be heard in the Montana Senate.

It is violation of our 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights and irresponsible of the federal government to force the state of Montana to pay for projects that we have not consented to. Montanans have the right to decide what is best for the state and how our resources will be used.

It's imperative that HB 315 passes so that we can create a strong mechanism to enforce accountability. The legislature should have the final say in implementing the will of the people and deciding if a federal mandate is good for Montana. This must be done before any mandate can be included in the budget process or adopted as policy.

The Montana Legislature has passed this law twice before, first in 2011 and again in 2013. However, both Governor Schweitzer and Governor Bullock vetoed it, citing that it was unnecessary. What can be unnecessary about providing mechanisms that uphold our 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights and promote government transparency?

Do those who oppose this bill have something to hide from the people of Montana? Are they working with the federal government on plans and programs that are contrary to the interests of Montanans?

The people of Montana have the right to know what the federal government is demanding of it and how much it is going to cost, and then should have the authority to decide whether or not it wants to participate in programs.

*Representative Bill Harris HD 29*