# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
## STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR

MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

April 14, 2017

The Honorable Austin Knudsen
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Speaker Knudsen:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby return with amendments House Bill 494 (HB 494), "AN ACT REVISING CONCEALED WEAPONS LAWS; PROVIDING THAT A PERSON WITH A VALID PERMIT TO CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON MAY CARRY THE WEAPON INTO A RESTAURANT WHERE ALCOHOL IS NOT THE CHIEF ITEM OF SALE; AND AMENDING SECTION 45-8-328, MCA."

Montanans recognize that guns and alcohol in public places do not mix. Montana Code Annotated 45-8-328, which prohibits a person from carrying a concealed weapon in places where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed, has long been the law of our state. HB 494 proposes to change that long-standing rule. It would allow concealed carry in bars and restaurants where food and alcohol are both served.

Establishments that serve alcohol are often gathering places in Montana. It is not uncommon for a bar to also serve food and for family friendly restaurants to also serve alcohol. HB 494 introduces uncertainty for both concealed weapon permit holders and bar and restaurant owners about which rules apply in which establishments.

I have been and will continue to be a strong advocate for second amendment rights of the citizens of Montana. I am, however, also an advocate for common sense. I am proposing amendments that reflect the common sense I believe most Montanans value. My amendment will clarify that a person may only carry concealed in restaurants where alcohol is not served.

I respectfully ask for your support of this amendment.

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

Enclosure

cc:     Legislative Services Division
        Corey Stapleton, Secretary of State

Amendments to House Bill No. 494
Reference Copy

Requested by the Governor

For the House Committee of the Whole

Prepared by Todd Everts
April 11, 2017 (4:33pm)

1. Page 1, line 26 through line 27.
**Strike:** "alcoholic beverages" on line 26 through "sale" on line
     27
**Insert:** "alcohol is not served"


- END -