

To: Members of the 2015 Legislature

From: Sen. Dick Barrett, Sen. Mark Blasdel, Rep. Greg Hertz, Rep. Tom Jacobson

Re: Joint Subcommittee on Revenue Estimation

Date: March 17, 2015

As you will recall, during the 2015 session the House and Senate committees on taxation both appointed subcommittees, which met together, to make recommendations to the House committee on taxation regarding the estimation of revenue contained in HJR 2. The purpose of this process was twofold; (1) to allow both houses to have some input in generating the revenue estimate, and (2) to reconcile, to the extent possible, differences between the LFD and the OBPP in the estimates of specific items, which were quite large in several cases.

In general, legislators participating in the revenue estimating process found that the subcommittee functioned well and accomplished its purposes. Accordingly, the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee is studying whether or not to formalize this joint subcommittee process in rule (in the session it was essentially an *ad hoc* arrangement) and if so, in what form and subject to what rules.

We (Barrett, Blasdel, Hertz and Jacobson) have been charged with bringing a recommendation to the full RTIC in June. We are inviting comment from any legislators on a number of questions regarding the subcommittee process. These questions are laid out in detail in the attached memorandum from Megan Moore, who staffs RTIC. As noted, we invite your comment on any and/or all of these questions. To give us time to read your comments and prepare a report, we ask that you submit them to Ms. Moore at memoore@mt.gov by Friday, April 8.