



Economic Affairs Interim Committee

59th Montana Legislature

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

SENATE MEMBERS
JOHN BRUEGGEMAN
VICKI COCCHIARELLA
KEN HANSEN
DONALD STEINBEISSER

HOUSE MEMBERS
DAVE GALLIK
JIM KEANE
TOM MCGILLVRAY
MIKE MILBURN

COMMITTEE STAFF
PATRICIA MURDO, Lead Staff
BART CAMPBELL, Staff Attorney
DAWN FIELD, Secretary

September 14, 2005

Senator Bill Tash
Chair, State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Committee
240 Vista Drive
Dillon, MT 59725

Dear Senator Tash,

The Economic Affairs Interim Committee (EAIC) requests that the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee (SAVA) once again transfer monitoring responsibilities for the Montana State Fund to the EAIC, because of the EAIC's existing responsibility to address workers' compensation issues related to the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and to insurance companies regulated by the State Auditor. The EAIC has monitoring responsibility for both DLI and the State Auditor.

SAVA is assigned under 5-5-215, MCA, to monitor the activities of the Montana State Fund because the State Fund is administratively attached to the Department of Administration, an agency within the purview of the SAVA. The EAIC requests that SAVA continue the tradition of the past three interims, consolidating all workers' compensation issues under one interim committee. Monitoring duties contemplated under 5-5-215, MCA, as they apply to the Montana State Fund include providing review of State Fund rules, identifying issues likely to require future legislative attention, identifying opportunities to improve existing law, examining experiences of the state's citizens with the operation of the State Fund that may be amenable to improvement through legislative action, and reviewing legislation proposed by the State Fund.

EAIC members agreed at their June 24, 2005, meeting to propose that the SAVA and the EAIC continue past mutual agreements regarding monitoring of the State Fund. On behalf of the EAIC, I hope that you will bring this matter to the attention of the SAVA at your earliest convenience. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Representative Jim Keane
Chair, Economic Affairs Interim Committee
C10429 5257pmxa.

**STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS'
AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 4, 2005
EXHIBIT # 11**