

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

INTRODUCED BY SMITH, BIXBY, BOHLINGER, BUZZAS, GALLIK, HEDGES, LENHART, PARKER,
PEASE, ROBERTS, ROUSH

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING GOVERNOR JUDY MARTZ TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION URGING SUPPORT FOR A FEDERAL INCREASE IN IMPACT AID FUNDING.

WHEREAS, many school districts across the United States include within their boundaries land owned by the federal government or land removed from the local tax base by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, these school districts must provide a quality education to their students with less local revenue than is available to other school districts because federal property is exempt from local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, since 1950, Congress, through the federal Impact Aid Program, has provided financial assistance to these local school districts that have lost property tax revenue because of the presence of tax-exempt federal property; and

WHEREAS, 75 Montana school districts receive over \$38 million annually from the United States Department of Education under the federal Impact Aid Program; and

WHEREAS, Congress is currently considering an increase in funding for impact aid schools of no more than 5%; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools is asking for a 7.5% increase; and

WHEREAS, impact aid schools in Montana will benefit greatly from the 7.5% increase in funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Montana Legislature request Governor Judy Martz to write a letter to the members of the Montana Congressional Delegation urging their support for a 7.5% increase in impact aid funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Band of Chippewa.

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