

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3
INTRODUCED BY J. MUSGROVE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING 24-HOUR SERVICE AT THE PORT OF ENTRY-WILD HORSE.

WHEREAS, there is only one 24-hour port of entry on the border between the State of Montana and the Canadian Province of Alberta; and

WHEREAS, an escalating amount of commercial traffic serving the oil sands region of Alberta hauls freight from manufacturers and suppliers located in the midwestern and southern United States; and

WHEREAS, the findings of a report prepared for Alberta's Legislative Assembly documented the need for an alternate trade corridor and the economic development potential that such a passage would have on communities along the corridor by routing that commercial traffic through Montana by way of Secondary Highway 232 and into Alberta on Provincial Highway 41; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2006, Alberta's Legislative Assembly unanimously approved Motion 506 that states: "Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to promote the use of Highway 41, up to and including Highway 63, from Wildhorse to Fort McMurray, as an alternate north-south transportation corridor from the United States"; and

WHEREAS, Alberta Highway 41 connects to Montana Secondary Highway 232 at the Port of Entry-Wild Horse and serves as an arterial connector to U.S. Highway 2 in Havre; and

WHEREAS, the practicality of this alternate trade corridor is contingent on a 24-hour border crossing facility at the Port of Entry-Wild Horse on Montana Secondary Highway 232; and

WHEREAS, 24-hour service at the Port of Entry-Wild Horse and the development of an alternate trade corridor between Montana and eastern Alberta would remove a barrier to trade and travel for oil and gas, coal, bioenergy, wind, agriculture, tourism, and other industries that require efficient access to markets, thus encouraging new investment and thereby supporting the economic development vision for Montana by promoting investment in central and eastern Montana, including six of the state's Indian reservations.

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

That the House of Representatives and Senate of the State of Montana urge Governor Schweitzer and

Montana's Congressional Delegation, as well as the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Montana Department of Transportation, to work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Highway Administration to develop 24-hour service at the Port of Entry-Wild Horse and to fund the necessary expansion of infrastructure that would make that service possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Governor of Montana, the Premier of Alberta, Montana's Congressional Delegation, the Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Canadian Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, the Director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Director of the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, the Alberta Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, the Alberta Minister of Economic Development, the Director of the Montana Department of Transportation, the Director of the Montana Department of Commerce, the Chief Development Officer of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, and the Mayors of Medicine Hat, Alberta, and Havre, Montana.

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