

**HOUSE JOURNAL  
65TH LEGISLATURE  
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATIVE DAY**

Helena, Montana  
January 24, 2017

House Chambers  
State Capitol

House convened at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Speaker presiding. Invocation by Representative Greef. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call. All members present, except Representatives Gunderson, excused. Quorum present.

Representative Windy Boy rose on a **Point of Personal Privilege** to request a moment of silence for the passing of his sister.

**BILLS** (Ricci, Chair): 1/24/2017

Correctly printed: **HB 49, HB 79, HB 81, HB 103, HB 104, HB 107, HB 108, HB 156, HB 167, HB 172, HB 186, HB 200, HB 207, HB 289, HB 290, HB 292, HB 294, HB 295, HB 296, HB 300, HB 301, HB 302.**

Correctly engrossed: **HB 24, HB 50, HB 101, HB 136, HB 162, HB 177, HB 199.**

Transmitted to the Senate: **HB 49, HB 108, HB 156, HB 172, HB 200.**

Signed by the Speaker at 3:00 p.m., January 24, 2017: **HB 1.**

Signed by the Chief Clerk of the House at 5:00 p.m., January 24, 2017: **HB 1.**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**BUSINESS AND LABOR** (Noland, Chair): 1/24/2017  
**SB 70**, be concurred in. Report adopted.

**EDUCATION** (Berglee, Chair): 1/23/2017  
**SB 5**, be concurred in. Report adopted.

**JUDICIARY** (Doane, Chair): 1/18/2017  
**HB 237**, do pass. Report adopted.

**NATURAL RESOURCES** (White, Chair): 1/23/2017  
**HB 124**, do pass. Report adopted.  
**HJR 3**, be adopted. Report adopted.

**TRANSPORTATION** (Lavin, Chair): 1/23/2017  
**HB 92**, introduced bill, be amended as follows:

1. Title, page 1, line 6.

**Following:** "CONTRACTS;"

**Insert:** "LIMITING THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS AUTHORIZED; REQUIRING A REPORT; PROVIDING RULE MAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 18-2-501, 60-2-111, AND 60-2-112. MCA; AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE."

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2. Page 1.

**Following:** line 9

**Insert:** "NEW SECTION. Section 1. Limit on projects -- reporting requirement. (1) The commission may award alternative project delivery contracts for no more than four projects by December 31, 2024.

(2) A project awarded but not completed by December 31, 2024, is authorized to proceed until final completion of the project.

(3) (a) The department shall provide an annual report to the governor and to the revenue and transportation committee, as provided for in 5-5-227. The report must contain a benefit analysis of alternative project delivery contracting in comparison to other contracting processes authorized in 60-2-111.

(b) The department shall report to the governor and the revenue and transportation interim committee upon request to provide information about alternative project delivery contracting."

**Renumber:** subsequent subsections

3. Page 2, line 24.

**Following:** "(4)"

**Strike:** "The"

**Insert:** "Subject to [section 1], the"

4. Page 4, line 3.

**Following:** "(7)"

**Strike:** "The"

**Insert:** "Subject to [section 1], the"

5. Page 4.

**Following:** line 5

**Insert:** "NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 60, chapter 2, part 1, and the provisions of Title 60, chapter 2, part 1, apply to [section 1]."

NEW SECTION. Section 6. Termination. [This act] terminates December 31, 2024." And, as amended, do pass. Report adopted.

**HB 180**, introduced bill, be amended as follows:

1. Page 1, line 16.

**Strike:** "or"

2. Page 1, line 17.

**Strike:** "."

**Insert:** "; or"

3. Page 1.

**Following:** line 17

**Insert:** "(d) a person authorized by the department of transportation, a local authority, utility

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company, or private contractor to be in the work zone."

And, as amended, do pass. Report adopted.

**MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE**

**Senate bills** passed and transmitted to the House for concurrence:

1/23/2017

**SB 33**, introduced by Hoven

**SB 41**, introduced by Moore

**SB 90**, introduced by Swandal

**FIRST READING AND COMMITMENT OF BILLS**

The following House bills were introduced, read first time, and referred to committees:

**HB 298**, introduced by E. Greef, referred to Education.

**HB 299**, introduced by G. Custer, referred to Transportation.

**HB 303**, introduced by K. Kelker, referred to Judiciary.

**HB 304**, introduced by R. Cook, R. Osmundson, referred to Appropriations.

**HB 305**, introduced by B. Harris, D. Bartel, B. Beard, R. Brodehl, B. Brown, F. Garner, C. Glimm, E. Greef, J. Knokey, D. Lenz, S. Staffanson, J. Trebas, S. Vinton, K. White, referred to Agriculture.

**HB 306**, introduced by B. Harris, D. Bartel, B. Beard, R. Brodehl, B. Brown, M. Cuffe, A. Doane, R. Ehli, K. Flynn, F. Garner, C. Glimm, E. Greef, A. Knudsen, D. Lenz, S. Staffanson, J. Trebas, K. White, referred to Judiciary.

**HB 307**, introduced by K. Kelker, referred to Appropriations.

The following House joint resolution was introduced, read first time, and referred to committee:

**HJR 7**, introduced by E. Hill Smith, referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The following Senate bills were introduced, read first time, and referred to committees:

**SB 28**, introduced by C. Vincent (by request of the Water Policy Interim Committee), referred to Judiciary.

**SB 33**, introduced by B. Hoven (by request of the Department of Transportation), referred to Transportation.

**SB 40**, introduced by J. Sesso (by request of the Legislative Council), referred to Legislative Administration.

**SB 41**, introduced by F. Moore (by request of the Livestock Loss Board), referred to Agriculture.

**SB 90**, introduced by N. Swandal, referred to Judiciary.

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**SECOND READING OF BILLS  
(COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)**

Majority Leader Ehli moved the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for consideration of business on second reading. Motion carried. Representative Beard in the chair.

Mr. Speaker: We, your Committee of the Whole, having had under consideration business on second reading, recommend as follows:

**HB 29** - Representative Fern moved **HB 29**, second reading copy, be amended as follows:

1. Title, page 1, line 7.

**Strike:** "1 ACRE"

**Insert:** "ONE-HALF ACRE"

2. Page 2, line 11.

**Strike:** "1 acre"

**Insert:** "one-half acre"

Amendment **not** adopted as follows:

Yeas: Bachmeier, Bennett, Bishop, Z. Brown, Court, Curdy, Curtis, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ellis, Fern, Fleming, Funk, Hamilton, Hayman, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Lynch, McCarthy, McConnell, Morigeau, Olsen, Perry, Pierson, Price, Ryan, Schreiner, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Webber, Windy Boy, Woods.

Total 38

Nays: Abbott, Anderson, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Berglee, Brodehl, B. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Cuffe, Custer, Doane, Ehli, Essmann, Fitzgerald, Flynn, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamlett, Harris, A Hertz, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Mandeville, Manzella, McKamey, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Patelis, Peppers, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Sales, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Welch, White, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 62

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 29** - Representative Essmann moved **HB 29** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Berglee, B. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Custer,

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Doane, Ehli, Essmann, Fitzgerald, Flynn, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamlett, Harris, A Hertz, G Hertz, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Keane, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Manzella, McKamey, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Patelis, Peppers, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Sales, Shaw, Smith, Staffanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Webb, Welch, White, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 59

Nays: Bachmeier, Bennett, Bishop, Brodehl, Z. Brown, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ellis, Fern, Fleming, Funk, Hamilton, Hayman, Hill-Smith, Karjala, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, Lynch, Mandeville, McCarthy, McConnell, Morigeau, Olsen, Perry, Pierson, Price, Ryan, Schreiner, Skees, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Wagoner, Webber, Windy Boy, Woods.

Total 41

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 76** - Representative G. Hertz moved **HB 76** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop, Brodehl, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Doane, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamilton, Hamlett, Harris, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Olsen, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, White, Windy Boy, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 100

Nays: None.

Total 0

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 79** - Representative Curdy moved **HB 79** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop, Brodehl, B.

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Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Doane, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Hamilton, Hamlett, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Noland, O'Hara, Olsen, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Webb, Webber, Welch, White, Windy Boy, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 91

Nays: Ballance, Cook, Gunderson, Harris, Hopkins, Mortensen, Rosendale, Staffanson, Wagoner.

Total 9

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 81** - Representative Curdy moved **HB 81** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop, Brodehl, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Doane, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamilton, Hamlett, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Noland, O'Hara, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, Windy Boy, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 92

Nays: Cuffe, Flynn, Harris, Hopkins, Mortensen, Olsen, Rosendale, White.

Total 8

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 103** - Representative Custer moved **HB 103** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop,

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Brodehl, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamilton, Hamlett, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Olsen, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Regier, Ricci, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, Windy Boy, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 95

Nays: Doane, Harris, Redfield, Rosendale, White.

Total 5

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 106** - Representative Jacobson moved **HB 106** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Bishop, Z. Brown, Cook, Court, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Funk, Galt, Garner, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamilton, Hamlett, Harris, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Loge, Lynch, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, O'Hara, Olsen, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Regier, Ricci, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Smith, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, Windy Boy, Woods, Mr. Speaker.

Total 77

Nays: Ballance, Berglee, Brodehl, B. Brown, Burnett, Cuffe, Doane, Essmann, Flynn, Galloway, Glimm, Lenz, Mandeville, Manzella, Mortensen, Noland, Patelis, Redfield, Rosendale, Skees, Staffanson, White, Zolnikov.

Total 23

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 128** - Representative Shaw moved **HB 128** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

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Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Ballance, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop, Brodehl, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Doane, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamilton, Hamlett, Harris, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Olsen, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, White, Windy Boy, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 98

Nays: Bartel, Staffanson.

Total 2

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 186** - Representative Mandeville moved **HB 186** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Anderson, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Brodehl, B. Brown, Doane, Ehli, Essmann, Fern, Flynn, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamilton, Harris, A Hertz, G Hertz, Holmlund, Hopkins, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Loge, Mandeville, Manzella, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Patelis, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Sales, Skees, Staffanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Welch, White, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 56

Nays: Abbott, Bachmeier, Bishop, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ellis, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Funk, Hamlett, Hayman, Hill-Smith, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Lenz, Lynch, McCarthy, Olsen, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Ryan, Schreiner, Shaw, Smith, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Webber, Windy Boy, Woods.

Total 44

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 194** - Representative Trebas moved **HB 194** do pass. Motion **failed** as follows:



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Yeas: Ballance, Berglee, Brodehl, B. Brown, Burnett, Doane, Galt, Glimm, Grubbs, Gunderson, Harris, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hopkins, C Knudsen, Lenz, Mandeville, Manzella, McKamey, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Skees, Staffanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, White, Windy Boy, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 37

Nays: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Bishop, Z. Brown, Cook, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Garner, Greef, Hamilton, Hamlett, Hayman, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, Lavin, Loge, Lynch, McCarthy, McConnell, Morigeau, Olsen, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Smith, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Webber, Welch, Woods.

Total 63

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 207** - Representative Bennett moved **HB 207** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop, Brodehl, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Doane, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamilton, Hamlett, Harris, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Olsen, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, White, Windy Boy, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 99

Nays: Rosendale.

Total 1

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

**HB 217** - Representative Brodehl moved **HB 217** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

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Yeas: Anderson, Bachmeier, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop, Brodehl, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Doane, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamilton, Hamlett, Harris, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Olsen, Patelis, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, White, Windy Boy, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 96

Nays: Abbott, Garner, Lavin, Peppers.

Total 4

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

Majority Leader Ehli moved the committee rise and report. Motion carried. Committee arose. House resumed. Mr. Speaker presiding. Chair Beard moved the Committee of the Whole report be adopted. Report adopted as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop, Brodehl, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Doane, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Hamilton, Hamlett, Harris, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Olsen, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, White, Windy Boy, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 99

Nays: None.

Total 0

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: Gunderson.

Total 1

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**THIRD READING OF BILLS**

The following bills having been read three several times, title and history agreed to, were disposed of in the following manner:

**HB 49** passed as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop, Brodehl, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Doane, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Hamilton, Hamlett, Harris, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Olsen, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, White, Windy Boy, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 99

Nays: None.

Total 0

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: Gunderson.

Total 1

**HB 108** passed as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Bachmeier, Beard, Bennett, Bishop, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Cook, Court, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Garner, Greef, Hamilton, Hamlett, Harris, Hayman, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Lavin, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Olsen, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Vinton, Wagoner, Webber, Welch, White, Windy Boy, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 68

Nays: Anderson, Ballance, Bartel, Berglee, Brodehl, Burnett, Cuffe, Doane, Galloway, Galt, Glimm, Grubbs, A Hertz, Hopkins, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lenz, Manzella, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Patelis, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Shaw, Skees, Tschida, Usher, Webb.

Total 31

Excused: None.

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Total 0

Absent or not voting: Gunderson.

Total 1

**HB 156** passed as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Cook, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galt, Garner, Greef, Grubbs, Hamlett, Harris, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, C Knudsen, Lavin, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Olsen, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, White, Windy Boy, Woods, Mr. Speaker.

Total 79

Nays: Ballance, Brodehl, Burnett, Court, Cuffe, Doane, Galloway, Glimm, Hamilton, Holmlund, Knokey, Lenz, Manzella, Patelis, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Skees, Tschida, Zolnikov.

Total 20

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: Gunderson.

Total 1

**HB 172** passed as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Berglee, Brodehl, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Cuffe, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Doane, Ehli, Ellis, Essmann, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Hamilton, Hamlett, Harris, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Keane, Kipp III, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Patelis, Perry, Pierson, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, White, Windy Boy, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 87

Nays: Bennett, Bishop, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Hayman, Karjala, Kelker, Olsen, Peppers, Price, Woods.

Total 12

Excused: None.

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Total 0

Absent or not voting: Gunderson.

Total 1

**HB 200** passed as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Bachmeier, Bennett, Bishop, Z. Brown, Cook, Court, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Fern, Fleming, Funk, Garner, Greef, Grubbs, Hamilton, Hamlett, Hayman, A Hertz, Hill-Smith, Jacobson, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Kipp III, Knokey, Loge, Lynch, McCarthy, McConnell, Morigeau, Olsen, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Smith, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Webber, Welch, Windy Boy, Woods.

Total 55

Nays: Anderson, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Berglee, Brodehl, B. Brown, Burnett, Cuffe, Doane, Essmann, Fitzgerald, Flynn, Galloway, Galt, Glimm, Harris, G Hertz, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jones, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Mandeville, Manzella, McKamey, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Rosendale, Skees, Staffanson, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, White, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.

Total 44

Excused: None.

Total 0

Absent or not voting: Gunderson.

Total 1

**MOTIONS**

Representative Ehli moved to re-refer **HB 217** to the Appropriations Committee.

Representative Brodehl objected and after discussion, withdrew his objection.

Representative Ehli moved **HB 217** be moved to the Appropriations Committee.

Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Bennett, Berglee, Bishop, Brodehl, B. Brown, Z. Brown, Burnett, Cook, Court, Curdy, Curtis, Custer, Doane, Dudik, Dunwell, Eck, Ehli, Ellis, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Flynn, Funk, Galloway, Galt, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Hamilton, Hamlett, Harris, Hayman, A Hertz, G Hertz, Hill-Smith, Holmlund, Hopkins, Jacobson, Jones, Karjala, Keane, Kelker, Knokey, C Knudsen, Lavin, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, McCarthy, McConnell, McKamey, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, O'Hara, Patelis, Peppers, Perry, Pierson, Price, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner,

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Shaw, Skees, Smith, Staffanson, Stewart-Per, Swanson, Trebas, Vinton, Wagoner, Webb, Webber, Welch, White, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.  
Total 90

Nays: Essmann, Fern, Kipp III, Olsen, Rosendale, Tschida, Usher, Windy Boy.  
Total 8

Excused: None.  
Total 0

Absent or not voting: Cuffe, Gunderson.  
Total 2

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Committee meetings were announced by the committee chairs.

Representative Ehli moved that the House recess until 6:50 p.m., Tuesday, January 24, 2017.  
Motion carried.

House recessed at 2:38 p.m.  
House reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

**MOTIONS**

Majority Leader Ehli moved that the House recess for the purpose of receiving The State of the State address from the Honorable Steve Bullock, Governor of the State of Montana. Upon adjournment of the Joint Session, the House will be adjourned until the hour of 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 25, 2017. Motion carried.

House reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms Murfitt notified Speaker Knudsen the Honorable Senators of the State of Montana were awaiting entrance into the House Chamber.

Sergeant-at-Arms Murfitt admitted the Senate into the House Chamber.

Speaker Knudsen introduced Senate President Sales and yielded the chair to him.

Senate Majority Leader Thomas moved that the body resolve itself into a Joint Session for the purpose of receiving an address from the Honorable Steve Bullock, Governor of the State of Montana. Motion carried.

Senate Majority Leader Thomas moved that the President be authorized to appoint a committee of four to notify Governor Bullock that we are in joint session and ready to receive the State of

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the State address. Motion carried.

President Sales appointed Senator Wolken, Senator Webb and Representative Webber and Representative McKamey and discharged them to escort the Governor into the Chamber.

President Sales asked the members and guests to please rise for the Invocation by Father Marc Lenneman, the tribal prayer by Representative Stewart Peregoy and remain standing for the Posting of the Colors by the members of the Montana Air National Guard Color Guard and the singing of the National Anthem by Senior Airman Khristine Wiley.

Sergeant-at-Arms Spencer announced that Governor Bullock and the committee of four awaited entrance to the House Chamber.

President Sales directed Sergeant-at-Arms Spencer to please admit Governor Bullock into the House Chamber.

President Sales introduced to the audience and the people of Montana the Governor of the State of Montana, the Honorable Steve Bullock.

Governor Bullock made the following remarks:

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the 65th Legislature; Lieutenant Governor Cooney, judges of our highest court and representatives of our tribal nations; my cabinet and coworkers - both in the Governor's Office and throughout state government; my beloved family Lisa, Caroline, Alex and Cameron; and my fellow Montanans:

As we gather tonight, let us honor those serving Montana, near and far. The one hundred twenty-nine Montana National Guard airmen and soldiers serving our state and nation in some of the most dangerous areas around the world; the snowplow driver, keeping commerce flowing and communities connected; the Child Protective Services worker, out on a call right now. They and others deserve our thanks.

This is the third time I've been honored to stand before this body to give my State of the State address. It is a tradition as old as the state of Montana herself.

Much has happened since I first stood before you four years ago, brimming with hope and optimism. But, I have to be honest. Over time, my heart has hardened - to the blank stares, the snide remarks, the cold reception, the eye rolling. No, I'm not talking about this side of the chamber...I'm talking about the transformation of my children into teenagers.

In preparing for tonight's address, I read through speeches of Governors who served before me. It struck me that, no matter the moment in history, no matter the political party, we have shared values, immutable over time: a sense of pride in this state and its people, a trust in our ability to get things done, and a belief that if we band together, our state and her citizens will shine even brighter tomorrow than they do today.

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Let that history be our road map for this 65th Legislative session, and let us be guided by the shared values that are as important today as when they were first spoken. Values of:

- Being responsible with Montanans' money;
- Of making investments today so that future Montanans will have a stronger workforce, economy and state;
- Of recognizing we are the treasure state - and our natural beauty as well as our natural resources provide opportunity;
- Values of supporting our businesses;
- Of caring for those who need our help; and
- The bedrock value of working together to get things done.

It is the constancy of these values that have helped us reach this point in our history, and holding fast to them will fuel our success moving forward.

And we have incredible success to build upon.

My fellow Montanans, I stand before you pleased to report the state of our state is strong.

Montana's economy is solid - and growing.

- Today, more Montanans have jobs than ever before in our state's history. Thirty-six thousand new jobs have been created since I took office.
- Our unemployment rate has dropped to a near-historic low of four percent, and has held steady for over a year.
- We've grown our economy by \$1.6 billion and increased personal income for hardworking Montanans by over \$4 billion over the past four years.
- And household income growth has been increasing in Montana faster than any state in the nation.

Our economy is growing in part because it has never been as diverse as it is today. It is growing because we are investing in our students. And it is growing because we are supporting our businesses and our workers.

That's not to say there aren't challenges. Global commodity prices are down - a force that affects states across the West, no matter who is sitting in the governor's chair. There is uncertainty coming out of Washington, D.C. And the seeds of discontent are far too often finding their way into these halls.



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If each of us here tonight recognize that we are temporary stewards of the offices we hold; if we acknowledge the work we do isn't about wins and losses in this building, but instead about the impact upon our neighbors; and if we are willing to embrace the values that have framed this state for the last one hundred thirty years, then the challenges we face will be minimal compared to the opportunities within our reach.

Guided by the values that have propelled us through time, we can take on the difficult decisions in our budget, build on our strong economy, take care of our neighbors, and invest in our children.

I am certainly not the first governor to insist on fiscal discipline from this body. Ted Schwinden said it best thirty-four years ago, when he said:

"I will maintain an open mind - and a sense of humor - as we debate the differences; but I will not stand by and allow Montana's favorable fiscal standing to be nicked-and-dimed to death. I will insist that we maintain a 'Black Ink Cushion' - a reasonable and necessary ending fund balance. Montana's budget must not be stained by red ink."

I am hopeful, by our third session together, you now appreciate that my insistence on leaving a \$300-million-dollar ending fund balance isn't just whimsy. It's what Montanans expect. It is why, even in the face of declining commodity prices over these past two years, our bond ratings remain high...and you all got to stay home between sessions.

In 2013, you learned I will veto spending if you send me a budget that's in the red. In 2015, we crafted a budget together that worked for Montana, and that left money in the bank for rainy days.

I ask you to do that again.

And just as I insist you balance our budget and leave money in the bank, I will insist that our state agencies be as careful with the money they are given as Montana families are with their own. That's why, even before the Legislature came to town, we trimmed \$102 million dollars of spending. That's why, even after the Legislature leaves town, I will continue to challenge our agencies to be careful stewards of hard-working families' tax dollars.

And it is precisely because we must be thoughtful with our tax dollars that I am asking this Legislature to bring some fairness to balancing our budget.

It doesn't make sense to me that you have proposed to cut workers from our Child and Family Services Division - the people on the front lines of helping kids in harm's way; or that you would propose to slash the funding to community nursing homes, that care for those depending on our help.

It also doesn't make sense to me, or to most Montanans, that someone making \$9 dollars an hour pays the same tax rate as someone making \$250 dollars an hour - especially when the alternative is to cut vital services for our citizens. Increasing the top tax rate for any income over a half a million dollars, and other modest revenue proposals before you, are fair.

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I ask that you give them fair consideration - and then pass them.

I am also not the first Governor - and you are not the first legislature - to recognize that some of the most important investments we can make are those that will impact Montana long after our time in office.

From the earliest days of our state, when leaders were wise enough to issue bonds to construct the spectacular building we gather in tonight, to Governor Nutter reminding us that "roads are vital to our economy," to Governor Babcock proposing new buildings "on our campuses, at our state institutions and the soldiers' home in Columbia Falls."

I have no doubt that every member of this body recognizes the importance of investing in our infrastructure and in publicly-owned buildings. But Montanans need you to do more than recognize it.

They need you to vote for it.

We can celebrate the infrastructure investments we have made, despite the disappointments of last session. Over the past four years, the Department of Transportation has let four hundred forty-nine projects worth nearly \$1.2 billion dollars to improve our transportation infrastructure. Montana workers have fixed over three thousand miles of highways.

We have put people to work in seventy communities to deliver clean drinking water and upgrade sewage treatment plants. We've improved, repaired and replaced eighteen bridges, upgraded facilities in thirty-seven schools, constructed eighteen affordable housing projects, and helped fund buildings on six of our campuses - a total of over half a billion of infrastructure investments since 2013.

This is progress, but there is more we can do. I have proposed a \$292-million-dollar investment in our bridges, local roads, sewer and water systems, and schools.

This includes funding for the University System's top priority, Romney Hall. Montana State University is bursting at the seams and we need to help it meet the needs of its growing student body.

And as we reflect on history tonight, we must also commit to funding its preservation. It is irresponsible that Montana's best treasures are piled up in warehouses and a basement across the street. We have a rich, incredible history that we need to showcase for Montanans, and for the eleven million visitors to our state each year.

It's also long overdue that we build a veterans' home in Butte. We must do more than say we support our veterans. We must invest in and honor their service to our country.

These projects and more are in the Build Montana proposal being heard in committee right now. Passing it will create over one thousand nineteen hundred jobs, pump over \$83 million dollars in wages into our economy, and better position our businesses and communities for the

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future.

I recognize that some of you in this body are fixated on who gets credit.

I don't care who gets credit.

I - like most Montanans - care about results. So please, join me in undertaking the hard work of getting something to my desk that we can all agree upon.

Because when we fail to invest in infrastructure, we fail Montana. As Territorial Governor Thomas Francis Meagher exhorted in 1866:

"The broken state of the roads, no doubt, prevented the other returns from coming up in a reasonable time."

Let's not make that mistake this session. Let's instead craft a bipartisan infrastructure proposal, let's make sure we fund our state share of highway projects, and make these some of the first bills to reach my desk - not the last.

Just as the investments we make in infrastructure will benefit our state for generations to come, so too will investments in our kids. Republican Territorial Governor James Tufts said in 1868 that:

"Next in importance to liberty itself, the greatest blessing we can confer upon our children is education."

There is much we can be proud of when it comes to our work over the past four years:

- Graduation rates have reached an all-time high of eighty-six percent.
- We have raised expectations for our students when it comes to math, English, and science and they are rising to the challenge.
- In just the last year and a half, forty percent of all K-12 students have even better internet access at school than they did before, further opening frontiers of knowledge and wonder.
- And each semester this year, the Montana University System will enroll over 2,500 high school students in college courses for dual credit, saving Montana families almost \$5 million dollars in tuition payments.

We also have much to be pleased with when it comes to our wise investments in higher education.

- Since 2009, forty-six states have decreased their funding of higher education. In Montana we've increased funding, because we know that when we invest in our students, we

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are investing in our economy.

- We hear that our kids are our greatest export...yet the facts show that eighty percent of our resident students are now employed right here in Montana within a year of graduating, up from seventy-four percent in 2009.

- And now more than ever, our University System, state government, and the private sector are working together to produce graduates that have a world-class education and the skills and abilities our local businesses need to grow and expand.

Yet, there is more to do. There are investments we can't afford NOT to make. I am asking you to increase our state's investment in K-12 by \$30 million. We can also increase our support for special education by \$1.5 million. We can continue investments in preserving our Native languages, and support for Tribal Colleges. We can invest \$2 million dollars to further build out the internet connectivity in our schools, and that investment will be leveraged up to eight times over.

And, finally, finally it's time to follow the lead of forty-five other states that have done it already, and invest in publicly funded early childhood education.

My administration and local districts have made progress for our four year olds these past four years, in spite of - not as a result of - this body. Last year, more than six hundred-fifty children were able to access high quality preschool their parents otherwise might not have been able to afford. Those children now have a brighter future, because they will enter kindergarten ready and excited to learn.

The average cost of childcare in Montana for a four year old is \$7,900 dollars - in other words, more than college tuition at Montana State University or the University of Montana. A mom earning minimum wage could easily spend half of her income on childcare for just one kiddo.

Let's help those families. I have proposed a \$12 million preschool grant program to allow school districts, Head Start programs or high-quality private preschool providers to offer preschool for four year old kids at or below two hundred percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

Like the other forty-five states that have implemented state funding for preschool, we know this works. And if you think the research says otherwise, stop by my office and I will give you a stack of reports taller than a four year old to help in your education.

If you think this isn't a good investment, consider this: the single biggest indicator of whether someone will be in prison when they are eighteen years old is the size of their vocabulary when they are five.

To be clear, it costs us not to invest in kids. As Governor Babcock explained, "The best way to reduce the cost of public welfare is to make it possible for every person to obtain the kind of education which will permit him to be a productive and successful member of our society."

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Early childhood education is that kind of education, and our kids can no longer wait.

Another value that we have shared over time is supporting the growth of our businesses. As Governor Aronson said over sixty years ago:

"Both political party platforms favor new industry. It is our job to make Montana attractive."

Well, Montana is attractive. I doubt Governor Aronson could have foreseen the explosion in our manufacturing sector, or our outdoor recreation economy, or growth in our biosciences and high-tech industries.

This growth is driven by the Montana work ethic. By the fact that people want to live, work and raise families here. People love that Montana is one town with a long main street. They love that when you get off work at five o'clock in the summer, you have five more hours of daylight and hundreds of miles of trails and streams to play in. They love that we stop to haul strangers out of the ditch. That we look out for each other.

The biggest challenge facing our businesses isn't our tax climate - we have one of the best. The biggest challenge isn't government; we are effective and have been working directly with businesses these last four years. The biggest challenge Montana businesses face is growth itself.

Today, there are over six thousand five hundred listed job openings across our state. As I talk to employers, they consistently tell me that their greatest barrier to expansion is recruiting enough talented and trained workers.

And while we have made significant strides over the last four years, there is more we can do. First, I'm asking you to invest in businesses that are playing a role in training the workers we need. We've increased apprenticeships by almost thirty percent these past four years, but a greater need remains. I'm proposing that we give businesses a \$1,000-dollar tax credit for each apprentice they hire - helping the employers get the skilled workforce they need, and better paying workers as they advance their skill set. And, if the apprentice hired is a veteran, I'm asking you to provide a \$2,000-dollar tax credit.

Second, let's incentivize businesses to invest in equipment to help their growth and expansion. I'm asking you to increase the local tax abatement for new business equipment up to seventy-five percent for the first five years after purchasing the equipment. Doing so will make sure businesses aren't taxed before the new equipment adds to their bottom lines, and it won't be at the expense of existing local government services.

And finally, let's pass the Paycheck Transparency Act. Workers - and especially female workers - should not be penalized for their prior wage history or for asking if they are getting paid the same as coworkers.

It's one more step in ensuring that all Montanans earn a fair day's wage for a fair day's work.

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Another value that has been universally shared over the history of our state is the recognition that we are the Treasure State - and that means both our natural resources and the nature that is so important to all of us.

As Governor Anderson implored:

"Environmental protection and economic development [...] are not mutually exclusive," and "We will be the greatest fools in the history of Montana if we fail to provide for the preservation of our air, water and land."

Like our natural resources, our outdoor heritage is big business:

Outdoor recreation accounts for 64,000 jobs and \$6 billion dollars in consumer spending each year;

Three-fourths of resident deer hunters and eighty-five percent of resident elk hunters report that they hunt on publicly-owned lands; and

In 2015 alone, hunters and anglers spent an estimated \$1.25 billion dollars in Montana.

The economic impact and the value Montanans place on our outdoor economy cannot be taken for granted. We need to enhance these opportunities, not detract from them.

I'm asking you to lift the limitations you placed on the Habitat Montana program, so sportsman dollars can continue to create and preserve places for our families to hunt, fish and recreate.

And, let me be clear, again: do not send bills to my desk that even suggest or start down the path of transferring our public lands out of public hands.

Because that will not happen - not on my watch.

As we look to the years ahead, at the forefront of many people's minds is what Montana's energy future looks like.

We should all take pride in knowing we are responsibly using our state's energy resources to provide good-paying jobs, strengthening our communities and supporting local schools, all while safeguarding our quality of life - especially our clean air, clean water, and the tens of thousands of jobs that rely on them.

As a governor and as a dad, I have a responsibility to address climate change. We know climate change is happening because we experience it. And even if you have doubts, the financial markets are reacting, and our energy companies are planning around it.

You often hear a false choice - that we can either address climate change or continue to produce power from fossil fuels - but not both. I reject this choice.

We hold the largest coal reserves in the country, and Montana coal production has been higher under my Administration than any previous one in the last three decades. Though, change is on

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the horizon -- driven by historically low natural gas prices, regulatory concerns and changing consumer demands.

We also have some of the best wind and solar resources in the country. The first commercial-scale solar projects, as well as over four-hundred megawatts of additional wind power, will be under construction this year. These projects bring with them new jobs for Montanans and a diversified tax base for a number of rural counties.

As an exporter of energy, our energy path is partially dependent on choices and decisions made beyond our borders. That's why I'm directing members of my cabinet to travel to Western states to talk with our neighbors about the diversity of resources we have to serve their needs - let's add the value and create the jobs here, giving our neighbors more of the electricity that they want.

And I'm asking you to take a number of steps:

First, our cheapest and greenest source of energy is conservation - the energy we don't use. Making our homes and businesses more energy efficient puts people to work and lowers heating bills. Let's give our local governments the option to have property assessed clean energy, also known as PACE. We'll boost energy conservation, and give Montanans more power over their lives.

Second, if we want to move our energy future forward, we'll work together to improve our major facilities siting act. This suggestion came to me from community and business leaders through the Main Street Montana Project. Our limited ability to move our power out of state has hurt future prospects for energy development. Fixing our laws is an important step toward that future.

And finally, while we won't solve the issues related to coal burning and carbon alone, we can take steps and make investments today that can help shape a better future:

As many of you know, I have asked the U.S. Department of Energy to assess the Colstrip facilities for carbon capture opportunities. That work continues and I am committed to it.

XPrize has staked \$20 million dollars in prizes for the teams that figure out how to capture carbon and turn it into commercially useful products.

To complement this work, the Wyoming Legislature has funded a center to test advanced technologies and innovation relating to coal and carbon capture. I am asking that we get off the sidelines and join Wyoming's efforts, by committing \$3 million dollars and making it a joint project.

To chart our energy future, we need vision and commitment that is grounded in reality. But we must not be afraid of the fact that tomorrow's reality will undoubtedly look different than it does today.

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I ask you to join me in shaping our energy future by design.

Over the past century and a quarter, Montanans have also consistently recognized that government has a role in providing a hand up, and a path forward, for our friends and neighbors in need of our help. As Governor Judge said forty years ago:

"It has been said that the stature of a government can be measured best by the compassion for its people. If that is the case, Montana has earned the right to stand tall."

And, indeed, this body has provided many reasons for us to stand tall:

67,000 more Montanans - the majority of whom are working - now have regular and consistent access to health care. Not only saving lives, but saving our rural hospitals.

We have upped our commitment to the full spectrum of mental health services and finally invested in the full range of autism services.

And the rate of uninsured Montanans has plummeted from twenty percent in 2013 to only seven percent today.

The work we have done to make Montanans healthier - and safer - isn't limited to legislative action alone.

We created the Office of American Indian Health, to help address the fact our Native American neighbors have a life span, on average, twenty years less than non-natives.

We established the Governor's Council on Health Care Innovation, engaging industry leaders to come together in a sustained commitment to improve health outcomes and reduce costs in the healthcare system.

We've expanded mental health counseling and assistance to all National Guard members and their families, because one soldier lost to suicide is one too many. We've expanded some of those services to anyone who has ever worn a uniform for our country.

And - thanks in large part to the First Lady's dedication and commitment - forty-one thousand more young Montanans now get a healthy breakfast at school than when we first took office.

Even as we look to tighten the budget, we cannot forget that a healthy economy depends on the health of our citizens.

I ask that you continue funding the full spectrum of mental health services we provided last session, including those receiving services as a result of the HELP Act. Thousands more Montanans are now able to access the mental health care they need and deserve.

We must do all we can to protect our most vulnerable children, those at risk for abuse and neglect. Following the recommendations of the Protect Montana Kids Commission, I am



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requesting additional funding for our Child Protective Services Workers, as well as needed legislative reforms.

And while I'm so pleased that Montana leads the nation in many economic indicators, I cannot tolerate that Montana leads the nation in youth suicide. I am haunted by this statistic, and I imagine you are as well. I am proposing \$1 million to fund evidence-based pilot programs. We will take what we learn from these efforts to bring it to scale, to better keep our kids safe.

And at the other end of the spectrum, we must do more to help keep our seniors in their homes. This not only affords our legacy Montanans the dignity they deserve; it saves us money. Therefore, I am requesting you provide \$1.5 million in additional funding to our Area Agencies on the Aging, and fully fund the respite care program. Our seniors deserve it.

Fiscal responsibility. Education. Infrastructure. Job creation. Caring for others.

These are immutable values that stand the test of time. And at the core of them all is the bedrock value of working together to get things done.

Almost a century ago, in 1923, Governor Dixon implored the Legislature:

"The people were never more ready for a constructive program. They were never more impatient of petty partisan politics that cause delay. They are looking to the membership of this present body for real results, and will not be content with platitudinous explanations of failure in accomplishment. The old-time appeals to party prejudice no longer bring forth real response from the mass of our citizenship."

Seventy years later, Governor Racicot encouraged the same. He said:

"Let us each vow tonight quietly in our hearts to shun the tired old games and the worn old labels. Let us stress too, in our hearts and our words, not the small differences that might divide us at times. Instead, let us treasure the immense similarities that unite us."

Tonight, I am asking you to focus on the shared values that unite us, so we may move our state forward.

Because at the end of the day Montanans want many of the same things: good-paying jobs, safe communities, great schools, clean air, clean water and public lands to enjoy, and the promise that the next generation will have even greater opportunities than we have today.

That future is in our reach. But we must work together, and the time for games is over. We must engage in thoughtful, rational, and constructive dialogue with one another.

The differences we have, while amplified at times, are small compared to what unites us. We have challenges and opportunities in the weeks and months ahead, and decisions to make that will impact our state long after my tenure or yours.

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Let's face them head on. Montana.

For a kid raised just a few blocks from where we gather tonight, this place, its people, its purpose, built for me a world where the improbable was achievable. Every kid growing up in Montana deserves that same opportunity and feeling of promise.

And you can be assured that I will do everything in my power - in our power - to make that a reality for this generation and the generations after.

So I stand here to tell you, to assure you - unequivocally - that now more than ever, the State of our State is strong. We as Montanans are strong. And we will become even stronger if we work together.

Thank you, God bless you, God bless Montana, and God bless the United States of America.

President Sales thanked Governor Bullock for his State of the State Address.

President Sales directed the committee of four to escort Governor Bullock from the Joint Session and requested the members remain standing as the Sergeant-at-Arms escorted the official party and guests from the Chamber.

Senate Majority Leader Thomas moved that the Joint Session be adjourned. Motion carried.

LINDSEY VROEGINDEWEY  
Chief Clerk of the House

AUSTIN KNUDSEN  
Speaker of the House