

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Speaker Galt and President Blasdel:

In accordance with the power vested in me as the Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 522 "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MILITARY STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC IMPACT TASK FORCE CONCERNING RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND FORCE STRUCTURES TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTANA; ALLOCATING THE TASK FORCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP, EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT, AND DUTIES; CREATING A STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

Montana plays a critical role in our national defense and the presence of military force structure in Montana provides a substantial economic benefit to our communities. I am impressed by the efforts of our military communities to preserve current military missions and attract new ones.

Unfortunately, I hesitate to support legislation that creates yet another task force that establishes a bureaucratic apparatus at considerable expense to taxpayers. Private organizations and other stakeholders have provided ample support for Montana's military missions around the state. They have done yeoman's work to ensure that our military missions have a promising future here.

This session, I have supported several bills to make Montana friendlier to military members and make Montana a more attractive location for future military missions. I pledge to be a partner to our military communities to help them preserve the missions they have, and attract new ones.

Speaker Galt
President Blasdel
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For the reasons stated, I am vetoing HB 522.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor

cc: Legislative Services Division
Secretary of State Christi Jacobson