



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

## Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

---

### 65th Montana Legislature

#### SENATE MEMBERS

MARY McNALLY  
TOM RICHMOND  
SCOTT SALES  
CYNTHIA WOLKEN

#### HOUSE MEMBERS

LAURIE BISHOP  
ZAC PERRY  
DEREK SKEES  
DANIEL ZOLNIKOV

#### COMMITTEE STAFF

TREVOR GRAFF, Lead Staff  
JAMESON WALKER, Staff Attorney  
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

July 12, 2017

To: Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC) members  
From: Sonja Nowakowski, ETIC staff  
Re: Universal System Benefits (USB) program

Attached are copies of the 2016 USB program reports submitted by Montana-Dakota Utilities, the Montana Electric Cooperative's Association, and by NorthWestern Energy. The Department of Revenue also received 64 reports from large customers who self-directed funds.

Title 69-8-402, MCA requires the ETIC to "review the universal system benefits programs, and, if necessary, submit recommendations regarding these programs." Public utilities and cooperative utilities are required to submit an annual summary report of universal system benefits programs to the ETIC for review.

During the July 31 meeting, ETIC members will be introduced to the USB program and receive a brief overview of the program. The ETIC in 2018 will again review USB reports, delve into the details of USB, and further discuss potential recommendations concerning the USB program.

Sonja Nowakowski  
Research Director  
Montana Legislative Services Division  
Phone: (406) 444-3078  
Fax: (406) 444-3971  
Email: [snowakowski@mt.gov](mailto:snowakowski@mt.gov)

CI0099 7179slxe.