

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
To: [Moore, Megan](#)
Subject: Comments for RIC
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Comment for RIC

Date: 24th August 2020 13:49

Your Full Name:

Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney

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Subject Line:

Opposition to a Statewide Sales Tax

Your Comment:

I've vocally opposed a statewide sales tax throughout my entire career in public service. I took a pledge to oppose a statewide sales tax more than 20 years ago, and as a state legislator, I voted against proposals to impose a statewide sales tax every single time they came up. Likewise, Montanans have overwhelmingly rejected a statewide sales tax – twice. The idea that anyone – Republicans or Democrats – would entertain the idea of increasing taxes on working Montana families who are struggling to make ends meet because of the COVID-19 pandemic is absurd. As leaders we need to be focused on finding ways to jumpstart our economy and put Montanans back to work, not praising a statewide sales tax, especially in the midst of a pandemic. Montanans demand that we do better. My running mate Casey Schreiner and I were proud to launch “Montanans Against a Sales Tax,” a Constitutional Initiative to permanently ban a statewide sales tax in Montana. Still, Greg Gianforte called a statewide sales tax an “ideal solution” for Montana, and he personally lobbied state legislators to support legislation that would have increased taxes on everyday goods for working families, while slashing income taxes for multi-millionaires like himself. I had the distinct honor of casting my vote against Gianforte’s legislation, after which I remember looking up into the balcony of the state Senate. I’ve never seen Greg Gianforte that mad before, and he’s not exactly known for his poker face. That’s the thing about Greg Gianforte – he doesn’t care how much more working families would have to pay in his GianforTAX, as long he secures a good deal for himself. After all, this is the guy who said, “the fairest tax is the one you pay, and I don’t.” That’s just wrong — and it’s time for us to settle this issue, once and for all. Because of Montanans Against a Sales Tax, voters will finally have the opportunity to say: no statewide sales today, no statewide sales tax two years from now, no statewide sales tax ever. I’m running for governor to protect and defend our Montana way of life, and that means making sure that working families are never forced to pay a statewide sales tax, no matter how “ideal” any multimillionaires from New Jersey think that might be. I hope we can count on you to join us.

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