

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:01 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 08:00

Your Full Name:

Carrey Hirt

Email Address:

carreyh21@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

Representing the people of MT

Your Comment:

I and the people of MT want an all in-person session! We hired legislators to WORK in Helena, not sit at home behind a computer screen – Do the People’s Business! We fully SUPPORT Full Public Access to the Legislative Process to Everyone (no COVID closures of the Capitol) OPPOSE MANDATORY Masks and Face Coverings in the Capitol and elsewhere.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:48 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 07:48

Your Full Name:

Joy Lewis

Email Address:

jlewis5368@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Joint Rules Committee public health safety

Your Comment:

I urge you to adopt and enforce the safety measures dictated by the CDC under the Trump administration. If you will not allow this 2021 Legislative Session to be conducted virtually for the safety of all then please mandate mask wearing, social distancing and proper hygiene while inside the Capitol and while Legislators are in Helena. Please consider the safety of all your constituents and colleagues during this pandemic. This is not political. It is about consideration for all people and their safety. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:20 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 07:19

Your Full Name:

Sharon Patton-Griffin

Email Address:

pattongriffin@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

Legislative Rules

Your Comment:

Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve the citizens of Montana as our 2021 legislators. I am interested in this legislative session, especially since both the legislative and executive branches of our government are controlled by one political party. That fact puts a special responsibility on the controlling party. I am already concerned about two actions going on in the pre-session. One relates to public health and the other relates to the democratic principles guaranteed by our Montana constitution. Firstly, I was appalled to read/see that scientifically-proven, protective actions that all citizens should take during our present health crisis are not being followed or enforced by the leaders in the legislature. Having just lost two cousins in eastern Montana who faithfully believed that their "personal responsibility" would protect them from the CO-Vid virus, I am concerned that such a fate might await many other "personal responsibility" reliant legislators. Rep. Derek Skees (according to the Tribune 12/9/20) stated, "... the state is heading towards herd immunity." (Typically, at least 70% of a population must be immune to achieve herd immunity. Montana health officials have reported 68,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, or about 7% of the state's population.) Perhaps Rep. Skees misplaced his decimal point, a common but, in this case, deadly error. Reaching herd immunity in Montana will require many more deaths. Unfortunately, several of you (who are in vulnerable population) could be sacrificed as part of the "herd" to be culled if the legislature reaches for that goal. The danger posed by putting personal freedom above public safety reaches beyond the Capitol. All the citizens of Helena, who are required to share their city with Montana legislators, are put at risk by the legislature's selfish disregard for simple, respectful behavior toward its host. Secondly, I could not believe that Republican members of a Montana House Rules Committee voted, on a 12-7 party-line vote with Republicans in favor, to allow GOP committee chairs at the 2021 Legislature to schedule or not schedule hearings on any bill. That means that committee chairs can kill a bill without anyone else seeing or commenting on that bill. Rep. Matt Regier, R-Kalispell, said the proposed change is a way to make the process more "streamlined and efficient," so committees are not forced to spend time on bills "going nowhere." Rep. Regier seems to suggest that bills that may not please committee chairs are not worthy of transparent discussion since they may go "nowhere." So much for minority rights ... a staple of our democracy! So much for transparency ... a staple of Republican principles, unless, of course, a committee chairperson does not happen to like a bill. On the other hand, Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen, D-Helena suggested that perhaps the legislature's job was to pass good bills and fail bad bills, not abdicate their responsibility to committee chairs. Interesting concept ... I am sure that the 2021 Montana Legislature will support scientifically-based legislative procedures to protect all people working in or visiting the Capitol and the residents of Helena. I am also sure that the 2021 Montana Legislature will support the continuation of the present process of hearing bills in committee rather than

supporting a change that negates freedom of speech by stifling the presentation of opposing points of view. I look forward to your support of respectful, scientifically-based and Constitutionally-sound actions. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sharon Patton-Griffin, Ed. D. 256 Dune Drive Great Falls, MT 59404

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:14 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 07:14

Your Full Name:

Sas Weber

Email Address:

sas@stuartweber.com

Subject Line:

Amendment to HR1

Your Comment:

I am opposed to the amendment HR101ATE. As I understand it this amendment would enable 15 committee chairs to effectively silence anyone they don't agree with by controlling which bills will be heard in committee. This is antidemocratic, and would silence the voices of 850,000 Montanans. Please VOTE NO on this amendment.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:17 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 06:17

Your Full Name:

Julie Martin

Email Address:

julesrnacn@protonmail.com

Subject Line:

Support liberty!

Your Comment:

As a constituent (I reside in Kalispell year-round), I expect you to do the following: 1. SUPPORT an all "In-Person Session" (we want legislators at work in Helena, not sitting at home behind a computer screen – Do the People's Business!) 2. SUPPORT Full Public Access to the Legislative Process to Everyone (no COVID closures of the Capitol) 3. OPPOSE Mandatory Masks and Face Coverings in the Capitol

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:11 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 04:11

Your Full Name:

Catherine Billie

Email Address:

cbicreek@stignatius.net

Subject Line:

vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:

Committee Chairs should not be given the power to decide what bills to hear or not hear. Otherwise, what is the committee for? You represent all the people of the state, not just your party or your pet projects!

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:57 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 23:57

Your Full Name:

Lain Kay

Email Address:

laingkmt@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Covid 19 distancing

Your Comment:

Don't be foolish and have no mask wearing or distancing while in session. A sick legislator is of no use to Montana. You must be cautious and sensible: not macho!

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:57 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 22:57

Your Full Name:

Andrea Daniel

Email Address:

Andrea.jm.daniel@gmail.com

Subject Line:

HR1/HR101ATE

Your Comment:

I find it disturbing and antidemocratic to allow committee chairs to decide, on their own, which bills should be heard in committee. This gives one person and one party more power than the rest of the legislators on those committees. All legislators on the committee should have a chance to discuss and vote on bills that are presented.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:45 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 22:45

Your Full Name:

Dave Swaim

Email Address:

IsNoMore@protonmail.ch

Subject Line:

Public Access

Your Comment:

Joint Rules Committee members, It's been very disconcerting to see various government entities use media-generated hysteria to deny citizen access to public meetings. I ask you to maintain your dignity and not engage in this behavior and allow full public access to the legislative process. I was present at the Kalispell city council meeting when the mayor and council members shut down the meetings and it was a cowardly, disgraceful act. I also ask that you maintain an all in-person session. My last request is that you respect the Constitutional right of all Americans to make their own health choices and do not mandate masks at the capitol. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:30 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 21:30

Your Full Name:

Ellen Trygstad

Email Address:

eltjupiter@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Gatekeepers of bills limited to heads of 15 committees

Your Comment:

America has a representative form of government. While there is a "Majority" and a "Minority" in the Montana legislature, by limiting the persons who can "allow" bills to even be presented, the voices of the voters are limited to only those a few people choose to be heard. This is not representative government. All members of the Legislature should have an opportunity to present ideas and bills for consideration. All people need feel their voice, through their representative, can be heard. The content may be voted down, but at least the content is aired and reviewed and considered regardless of party or any other reason.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:26 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 21:26

Your Full Name:

Scotia Brosnan

Email Address:

joypeace.sb@icloud.com

Subject Line:

In Person Session

Your Comment:

I support an all "In-Person Session" (we want legislators at work in Helena, not sitting at home behind a computer screen – Do the People's Business!) SUPPORT Full Public Access to the Legislative Process to Everyone (no COVID closures of the Capitol) OPPOSE Mandatory Masks and Face Coverings in the Capitol. Stop the charade. The CDC advised they cannot isolate the virus. That's because it doesn't exist! You represent us as We the People are the government. We are not happy with the back room deals occurring.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:59 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 20:59

Your Full Name:

Kerry Krebill

Email Address:

kerrykrebill@aol.com

Subject Line:

MT Legislature NOT meeting in person during severe Covid-19 danger

Your Comment:

Thank you for holding your Joint Rules Committee by Zoom on Wednesday Dec. 18. PLEASE do not put more Montanans at risk for this virus by choosing to meet in person in January. Montana has been lucky to have missed the first big lethal break-out of the virus that New York, Florida and other states experienced in the spring and summer, but we are now in our time of extreme danger. Masks, ventilation and distancing all HELP to prevent infection, but the best preventative is simply not to meet indoors together. I am speaking from the standpoint of a choir director who has cancelled all rehearsals and performances. Some of my singers recently contracted Covid-19 at Helena Symphony Chorale rehearsals, where all safety protocols had been followed, but many were infected anyway. One singer was emergency air-lifted to Seattle, and others are hospitalized. This is a matter of life and death, and we all want to see ALL our family members at NEXT Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner tables. Please be wise and keep our communities safe this winter as we patiently await the vaccine being available to all. Zoom works. Just do it, PLEASE.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:59 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 20:58

Your Full Name:

Paul Pacini

Email Address:

ppacini47@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Joint Rules Committee

Your Comment:

The Joint Rules Committee is making decisions that will affect Montanans' ability to participate. It will allow committee chairs to table bills without a vote, and it may prevent legislators who attend virtually to vote on issues. Our right to have a voice in government is at risk.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:41 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 20:41

Your Full Name:

Deborah M. Wilson

Email Address:

dmwilson@acwei.com

Subject Line:

Support IN-PERSON Sessions - Support Full Public Access to Legislative Process - Oppose Mandatory Masks & Face Coverings at Capital

Your Comment:

I support an all "In-Person Session" Please do the People's Business in Helena and not from home. I support Full Public Access to the Legislative Process to Everyone with no COVID closures of the Capitol. I strongly oppose Mandatory Masks and Face Coverings in the Capital or anywhere. I strongly support less taxes and smaller government.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:38 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 20:37

Your Full Name:

Rebecca Baraby

Email Address:

bbaraby@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Legislature 2021

Your Comment:

The 2021 Legislature is not welcome to convene in Helena unless they utilize video participation, maintain social distance rules AND wear masks at ALL times! This is my community and it deserves to be protected from ignorant Republicans who don't want to wear masks. They need to stay home, in their community and not put mine at risk. This includes anywhere they go while in Helena! This is a public health issue.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 7:10 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 19:10

Your Full Name:

Missey Dore

Email Address:

misseyd@q.com

Subject Line:

Rules Change

Your Comment:

This proposed rule change to vest power to committee chairs as gate keepers of bills they choose to hear is a terrible idea! It goes against the spirit of democratic process. As public servants, legislators need to hear and consider the concerns and ideas of their constituents. This is better served by a committee decision not just one committee chair. It stinks of cronyism and is antithetical to honest representation. Do not make this rule change. It is ill-advised and places too much power in the hands of too few of the legislature.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:39 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 18:38

Your Full Name:

Clare Kearns

Email Address:

kearns.clare@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Joint Rules Committee

Your Comment:

It has come to my attention that some rules the Joint Rules Committee is considering may be antidemocratic. First, to block or significantly limit the public's ability to participate or to voice opinions is an outrage. Then, there's the wrong-headed plan to allow committee chairs to prevent bills from being voted on. To give one person this authority is antidemocratic. Just look at what Mitch McConnell has been able to do by having that kind of control. It has paralyzed the Federal Government. Also, the issue of meeting in person and not requiring face masks is outrageous. As a citizen of Helena, I am well aware that legislators visit the Helena bars at the end of their days. I do not want them using this legislative session as a superspreader event.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:38 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 18:38

Your Full Name:

Paul Raish

Email Address:

dr.raish@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Vote CONSERVATIVE according to the overwhelming will of the people of MT

Your Comment:

SUPPORT an all "In-Person Session" SUPPORT Full Public Access to the Legislative Process to Everyone (no COVID closures of the Capitol) OPPOSE Mandatory Masks and Face Coverings in the Capitol AND EVERYWHERE in MT!!!! REPEAL mandatory mask wearing VOTE CONSERVATIVE according to the overwhelming will of the people of MT

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:19 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 18:18

Your Full Name:

Mark Rhoads

Email Address:

markr@slorhoads.com

Subject Line:

HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:

Vote against vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE. 15 chairs with absolute power to unilaterally kill any bill, even those supported by a majority of the legislature, countermands the will of the people to have their duly elected representatives represent them in their participation in state legislature. Also, be careful what you teach. Subsequent legislatures where the controlling party is different may use this as precedent, exemplified by several missteps made for self-centered convenience by both parties in both houses of Congress. Do not repeat their mistakes.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:17 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 18:16

Your Full Name:

P. Baird Godvin

Email Address:

pbgodvin@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

HR1

Your Comment:

Dear Members of the Joint Rules Committee, Please vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE which would allow approximately 15 committee chairs to effectively silence anyone that they don't agree with - including the representatives that the state's citizens JUST ELECTED! If you pass HR1... "100% of the bills to be considered in MT would fall on one of 15 chairs. 85 other House Reps would have no say. 850,000+ Montanans would be unrepresented under these rules." THAT IS NOT DEMOCRACY AND YOU KNOW IT! Everyone else might as well go home. The State Legislature will become an autocratic body run in a fascist manner. THAT WOULD BE CRAZY AND YOU KNOW IT. With Deep Concern for the State, P. Baird Godvin

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 5:48 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 17:47

Your Full Name:

Barbara Miller

Email Address:

bmillier@montana.com

Subject Line:

Request equal access for persons with disabilities

Your Comment:

Please make the Montana Legislature accessible to citizens and organizations that represent disabled Montanans. The proposed rules for participation, including insisting on in-person participation and limited access for persons in the minority party, makes it virtually impossible for most disabled Montanans to actively participate in the actions of the Legislature.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 17:14

Your Full Name:

Kristin Harbuck

Email Address:

kharbuck@gmail.com

Subject Line:

HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:

The house must vote against the proposed rule to allow committee members to have full control over which bills are heard in committee. To give full control to 15 representatives is extremely undemocratic and silences the voices of the thousands of Montanans who are represented by the other 85 representatives in the house.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 5:10 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 17:10

Your Full Name:
William Martin Freese

Email Address:
willfree@hotmail.com

Subject Line:
HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:
The proposal to allow Committee Chairs to prevent bills from being heard in Committee is a disastrous mistake. The idea that 15 members should have absolute power over what 100 House members can or cannot do will deny Montanans the right to be governed by their elected representatives. If this isn't unconstitutional, it should be. Please vote against this ill-conceived idea.

Upload Written Testimony:
—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: trwinery@midrivers.com
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SJRC hearing on Wednesday

Hi Susan,

Megan Harbaugh asked me if I would be willing to testify at this meeting regarding the importance of respect for COVID-19 spreading. If it would be helpful, I could spend some time with you from two perspectives:

1. We own a winery, and several of our overnight RV travellers this summer told sad tales of relatives becoming quite ill and sometimes dying of the disease.
2. We also run a BnB with AIRBnB in our home, and we have exercised significant caution to make sure both we and our guests are safe.
3. I am a United Church of Christ pastor, and despite the emptiness of the church on Sunday mornings, we refuse to simply stick our heads in the sand and pretend that COVID-19 is fake. We have had at least two persons in our church family stricken by the pandemic. Our worship is done via Facebook Live. There's no way we would want to risk being the cause of someone becoming infected by coming to church.

I will probably be testifying during this legislative session on behalf of the Winery Association of Montana, and I certainly would feel better if those committee gatherings were held in such a way that the members and guests there felt, and were, more or less safe.

Shoot me the zoom link if you feel my presence would be helpful.

Bob Thaden
Tongue River Winery
President, Montana Grape and Wine Association 501 (c) 3
Vice President, Winery Association of Montana (501(c)6
137 Morning Star Ln
Miles City, MT 59301
406-853-1028 (cell)
www.tongueriverwinery.com [tongueriverwinery.com]