

Fox, Susan

From: Rita Rozier <rtrozier@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:21 PM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] public comment

Hi Susan,

I attended the Zoom meeting this morning and also called in to try and give my comment but was unsuccessful in being recognized. If possible, can you pass my comment along (see below)? Thank you for your help.

I am Rita Rozier, a resident of HD60 in Livingston Montana, which is represented by Democrat Laurie Bishop. I am here to ask you to vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE for two reasons. The first is that giving 15 committee chairs--all of whom are Republican--the power to decide which bills are heard in Committee disenfranchises entire communities of representation at our own legislature. Montana state representatives represent an average of 9,894 residents. Communities like ours who elected a democratic legislator would lose the power to raise issues important to us. Laurie Bishop is on her third term because she has done an excellent job for our community and a bipartisan majority entrusted her to bring our concerns to the Legislature. It is unfair—and should be illegal—for the House Rules Committee to hamstring our sole Representative, thereby effectively leaving nearly 10,000 constituents without a voice. Further, a similar number of people would be disenfranchised for each House District with a Democrat in office.

The second reason I ask you to vote against HR1 is that it allows and even promotes arbitrary decisions by individual committee chairs that may not be in the best interest of the State. For example, in 2018, C-PACE, a bipartisan bill that required no expenditure, was good for business, and which had the potential to reduce greenhouse gases while providing jobs and economic benefit, was stopped from getting to the floor for a vote by a Republic Committee Chair. At a public meeting following the legislative session, the Chair said he killed that bill because too many people had lobbied for it. I said, “But we were your constituents!” He replied that he felt pressured, so he killed it. That sort of emotional, irrational decision-making is less likely when other legislators and the public are allowed a part in the conversation.

Thank you.

--

Rita T Rozier

39 Billman Lane, Livingston MT 59047

Cell phone #: 406-671-5446

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 16th December 2020 11:55

Your Full Name:

Paul Pacini

Email Address:

ppacini47@gmail.com

Subject Line:

COVID-19 Precautions

Your Comment:

What I have been reading in the newspaper and hearing on the broadcast news about the behavior of our State Legislators and possible rule changes has been disturbing. First, legislators should not have a special dispensation from wearing masks which are proven to be most effective to protect those persons around them. If they insist on not wearing a mask, they should not venture into the general population of their guest community. In short, do not go to any restaurant, bar, or shop in Helena. Stay in the Capital Building or your Helena accommodation. If any non-masked legislator gets sick, go to your home town hospital. Don't clutter our emergency room. We are working hard to contain this virus. Visiting legislators are welcome to practice contrary beliefs in their own space. Second, to change rules to allow a committee chair to discard a bill before it is even heard anoints the chairperson as an oligarch. This can not be tolerated in a democratic society. The public has the right to know what bills are being presented.

Upload Written Testimony:

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

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 16th December 2020 11:52

Your Full Name:

Todd Bernhardt

Email Address:

todd.bernhardt.fcrcc@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Masking Alternative?

Your Comment:

Real-time Antigen testing may be a much more effective method of preventing spread than masking because they identify people who are currently contagious in real time. Not sure what appropriate processes to wrap around this...provide tests to everyone entering the building? A different, confirmation test if positive and then no admission granted if confirmed? Here is commentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjphzIV5DYo>

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 16th December 2020 11:18

Your Full Name:
Becky Jean Piske

Email Address:
beckyjpsike@gmail.com

Subject Line:
a fair chance for all assigned bills to be heard in committees (HR 1- Rules committee)

Your Comment:
Please do not change the present rules in HR1 which make sure that the public gets to know all the bills of their elected legislators. Keep Montana politics transparent. Please do NOT take away right to know. You are here to serve us and we deserve to speak. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:
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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 16th December 2020 11:15

Your Full Name:

Becky Jean Piske

Email Address:

beckyjpsike@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Covid rules

Your Comment:

Please do everything you can to both keep the legislative process transparent by using streaming and zooming, to allow legislators to fully participate in all duties through zoom and other media, and to keep the employees in the Capitol building safe during and after the legislature leaves. Masking, distancing, and use of zoom or like technology have effectively and efficiently allowed the worlds of business and government to function and by now everyone knows how to use zoom well. Please follow health guidelines while governing your Montana people. Welcome to Helena. Please help Helena as it struggles with this pandemic. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 16th December 2020 10:54

Your Full Name:
Ronald Waterman

Email Address:
ronwaterman530@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Public safety rules for upcoming session

Your Comment:

I am hoping the Rules Committees will adopt appropriate rules to allow the session to conduct its business while keeping the staff, members of the Legislature and the public safe while the Legislature is in session. This means that, at a minimum, as many of the committee meetings as possible should be held virtually, which allows everyone to attend safely. For those times when in person meetings are necessary, those should be conducted with masks mandated and socially distancing enforced. The State's business should be conducted in a safe and healthy manner to avoid the continued spread of the Covid-19 virus.

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