

**Montana Conservation Community
Legislative Hotlist, House of Representatives
Week 2: January 12, 2009**

Please Support:

HB 27 Revise universal system benefit laws

Rep. Wiseman, FRET, 01/14/09, 3pm, Rm 172

This bill, unanimously recommended by the interim Energy and Telecommunications Committee, eliminates the sunset provision of the universal system benefit program (USBP), and gives a legislative interim committee direction to review the program regularly for oversight. USB programs fund low-income power bill assistance, weatherization projects, energy audits and small scale distributed renewable energy. The programs were created in 1997, and are funded by a small charge on power bills (around \$1/ month for the average household). Contact Anne Hedges, MEIC, 406.461.9546.

HB 52 Fund hydrogeologic study

Rep. McNutt, Appropriations, 01/12/09, 3pm Rm 102

This bill funds up to seven hydrogeologic studies in high growth counties such as Ravalli and Gallatin. These studies would provide much needed information on surface and groundwater interactions, and better facilitate local and state government on how, where and when water should be used. Contact Brianna Randall, Clark Fork Coalition, 406.370.5289.

HB 98 Revise energy performance contracting for state buildings

Rep. Dick Barrett, FRET, 01/14/09, 3pm, Rm 172

This bill allows the state, including the university system, to enter into energy performance contracts as a means to provide capital for energy efficiency improvements in buildings. Private companies implement energy savings technology improvements, and the state pays them back with monies garnered through energy savings. Contact Matt Leow, Northern Plains Resource Council, 406.396.1766.

HB 190 Clarify bridge access law

Rep. Van Dyk, FW&P, 01/13/09, 3pm, Rm 303

This bill provides a mechanism and funding for legal livestock fences at public right-of-ways on county bridges, so long as they allow public access. This measure aims to secure Montanan's constitutional right to access streams and rivers while respecting landowners' need to erect fences to manage livestock and protect private land. Contact Mark Aagenes, Montana Trout Unlimited, 406.554.9265.

This hotlist is compiled by Montana Conservation Voters (contact Sarah Cobler, 581.2284 or sarah@mtvoters.org) as an educational service to lawmakers and citizens, weekly tracking key conservation-related legislative actions.

Alternative Energy Resource Organization (AERO) * Clark Fork
Coalition * Montana Audubon * Montana Conservation Voters *
Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) * Montana Smart
Growth Coalition * Montana Trout Unlimited * National Center for
Appropriate Technology (NCAT) * Natural Resource Defense Council *
Northern Plains Resource Council