

**Montana Conservation Community**  
**Legislative Hotlist, House of Representatives**  
Week 3: January 19, 2009- Happy MLK Day!

**Please Support:**

**HB 20, Create weatherization account using oil and gas production tax**, Rep. Dickenson (D-Great Falls), Human Services, 01/23/2009, 3pm, Rm 152. (1<sup>st</sup> hearing this week.)

This bill would allocate 20% of oil and gas production tax money to a state weatherization account. The account will provide funds for the DPHHS home weatherization programs. Contact: Matt Leow, Northern Plains Resource Council, 406.396.1766 or matt@northernplains.org.

**HB 27, Eliminate the sunset for the Universal Systems Benefits Programs**, Rep. Wiseman (D-Bozeman), FRET, 01/14/09, 3pm, Rm 172. (Pending executive action.)

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. Contact Anne Hedges, MEIC, 406.461.9546 or ahedges@meic.org.

**HB 52, Fund critical hydrogeologic studies**, Rep. McNutt (R-Sidney), Appropriations, 01/12/09, Rm 102, 3pm. (Awaiting executive action.)

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 or brianna@clarkfork.org.

**HB 98, Allow energy performance contracting for state buildings**, Rep. Dick Barrett (D-Missoula), FRET, 01/14/09, 3pm, Rm 172. (Pending executive action.)

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 or matt@northernplains.org.

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

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

**Please Support (cont.):**

**HB 190, Clarify bridge access law**, Rep. Van Dyk (D-Billings), FW&P, 01/13/09, 3pm, Rm 303. (Pending executive action.)

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 or [mark@montanatu.org](mailto:mark@montanatu.org).

**Please Oppose:**

**HB 79, Uniform provisions for state land transactions**, Rep. Stahl (R-Saco), Natural Resources, 01/19/2009, 3pm, Rm 472. This bill would prohibit a net gain in land ownership by the state. This would prohibit Fish Wildlife and Parks from purchasing land under the Habitat Montana program, as well as projects like the purchase of Plum Creek property under the Working Forests Initiative. Contact Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon, 431.9157 or [jjellis@mtaudubon.org](mailto:jjellis@mtaudubon.org).

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

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