

January 10, 2011

TO: MPMCSA MEMBERS

FROM: RONNA ALEXANDER, E.D.

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN:

Week One: As has been reported in the local Medias, the first week of the 62nd Legislative Session was mostly spent in education for new and seasoned legislators; budget and appropriations of the State coffers, law review and protocol for conducting business. The House and Senate committees that will address the many bills that will be presented also met to organize and set forth rules for their individual endeavors. Those committees will begin meeting this week and you can find a schedule on the Legislature's website <http://leg.mt.gov/css/>.

Saturday the Legislature held the "Jobs Listening" session at the Capitol which was divided into four segments of industries. The Association, represented by Kary Tonjum with CityServiceValcon in Kalispell was scheduled for the "Retail/Manufacturing/Technology" section. Mr. Tonjum did a great job with the presentation which urged the Legislature to look at furthering the cause of biomass energy production that in turn would result in good forest management. The presentations can be viewed and listened to via the Legislature's internet and public television resources.

BILLS REPORT

Each week we will send a legislative update to your inboxes; the report will also be available on the Montana/WPMA website. As one again reported you can also monitor bills yourself by creating a preference list on the Legislative website; http://leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/62nd/laws_pref.asp.

SENATE BILL 9: To allow mixing zones at petroleum contaminated sites; resulting in a closure (no further action) letter from the DEQ and releasing the site from any further cleanup or monitoring action. This is the concept that the Association has been working on for several years and which the Environmental Quality Council Interim Committee unanimously endorsed at their October meeting last fall. The sponsor is Senator Jim Keane from Butte. We will be vigorously supporting the bill.

SENATE BILL 20: By Senator Jim Shockley of Victor. The bill would require labels on retail dispensers indicating the percentage of ethanol present in a particular grade of fuel and; require that a label be placed on the dispenser stating that the fuel grade did NOT contain ethanol if no blend was present. Position: Oppose

SENATE BILL 29: By Senator Lynda Moss/Billings. This is the bill that was endorsed by the Interim Law & Justice Committee to require mandatory training for the sales/service of alcohol. The Association along with other affected organizations is negotiating with the sponsor for certain amendments that if accepted would insure our support for the bill. The amendments include; a three-year certification, statewide pre-emption to local governments seeking to pass similar ordinances and, assurance that the State/Department of Revenue is not a provider of certified training.

As of today, the bills have not yet been scheduled for a hearing but we would expect them to be be assigned a date soon. So we're off and running! Stay tuned.