

April 23, 2009

The Honorable Bob Bergren  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Robert Story, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Speaker Bergren and President Story:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby return with amendments House Bill 52, **“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GROUND WATER INVESTIGATION PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR PRIORITIZATION OF SUBBASINS BY THE GROUND WATER ASSESSMENT STEERING COMMITTEE; ADDING A MEMBER OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TO THE GROUND WATER ASSESSMENT STEERING COMMITTEE; PROVIDING A CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 2-15-1523, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”**

House Bill 52 establishes a ground water investigation program under the guidance of the existing ground water assessment steering committee. The information collected through this program will be invaluable in developing plans and models for Montana subbasins that are current, comprehensive, and accurate to assist the state in planning for agricultural, industrial, and development uses, as well as conservation and ecological protection.

My proposed amendment restores one-time-only funding in the amount of \$4.2 million, as originally requested by the interim Water Policy Committee, for this important mission.

I have discussed my proposed amendment with the sponsor of the bill, Rep. McNutt, who supports the amendment.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR

cc: Legislative Services Division

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Amendments to House Bill No. 52  
Reference Copy

Requested by the Governor

For the House Committee of the Whole

Prepared by Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson  
April 23, 2009

1. Page 2, line 25.

**Strike:** "\$900,000"

**Insert:** "\$4.2 million"

2. Page 2, line 30.

**Strike:** "\$900,000"

**Insert:** "\$4.2 million"

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