



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE ROB COOK
HOUSE DISTRICT 27

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COMMITTEES:
LONG RANGE PLANNING - CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS

27 January 2014

Chairman Regnier and Members,

We thank you for your service and your largely successful effort in defining Montana's new legislative districts. We are well aware of the difficulties inherent in the task you have agreed to undertake and we commend you for the transparency of your process.

However, we do feel that in the particular case of Senator Llew Jones, the commission's decision to leave him without a Senate district is a significant oversight. While serving three terms in the Montana House of Representatives and one term in the Montana Senate, Llew has demonstrated a long history of bipartisan policy making. As a consequence, he is well respected by both chambers of the Montana Legislature, by both sides of the legislative aisle, and by the executive branch.

Llew has always placed the state and its citizens above party wrangling and political showmanship. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the area of public education. Llew's recent, biennial long effort to craft a school funding bill that is acceptable to: labor and school boards, urban and rural, and east and west, is a perfect example of his legislative skill set and his personal commitment to do what is best for Montana.

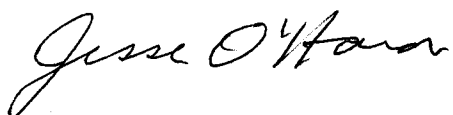
We are asking that the commission concur with our belief that Senator Jones represents those qualities of Montana's citizen legislature that we all wish to retain. The commission can accomplish this by redressing the current oversight. Please provide Senator Jones with a Senate district in which he can run during the upcoming (2014) elections. In our opinion, it would be prudent to assign the carryover Senators to those Senate districts that would naturally be open next election cycle. An example of this would be to assign Senator Ripley to Senator Lewis' seat, as Senator Lewis is termed out and unable to run anyway.

Again, we thank you for your time and hard work and we would like the commission to take note of the diversity inherent in the signatories to this request. Respectively,

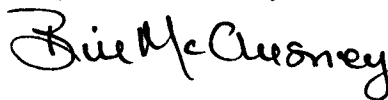
Rep Rob Cook

Rep Chuck Hunter

Rep Jesse O'Hara



Rep Bill McChesney



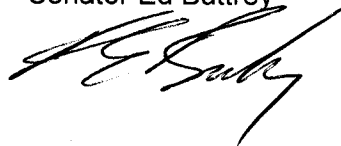
Rep Jeff Wellborn




Rep Bob Mehlhoff



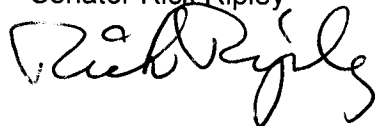
Senator Ed Buttrey



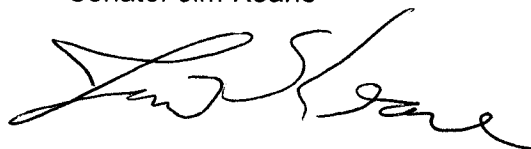
Senator Jon Sessa



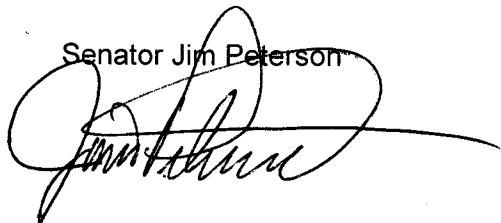
Senator Rick Ripley



Senator Jim Keane



Senator Jim Peterson

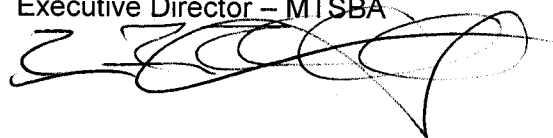


Senator Cliff Larson



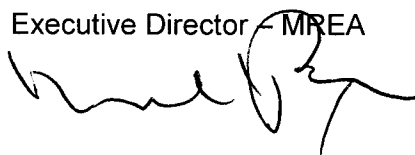
Lance Melton

Executive Director - MTSBA



Dave Puyear

Executive Director - MREA



Kirk Miller

Executive Director - SAM



Eric Feaver

President - MEA/MFT

