

Board of County Commissioners

*Sandra J. Broesder, Chairman
Janice Hoppes, Member
Thomas A. Kuka, Member*



*Pondera County
20 Fourth Ave SW, Ste 205
Conrad, MT 59425-2340*

*Phone (406) 271-4010
Fax (406) 271-4070
email: pococo@3rivers.net*

PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA

April 13, 2016

Representative Ryan Lynch, Chair
Economic Affairs Interim Committee
Montana Legislative Services Division
P O Box 201706
Helena MT 59620

Re: SB390 – Interim Study of Department of Labor and Industry Fees

Dear Chairman Lynch and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of the Interim Study of the Department of Labor and Industry Fees. We, as commissioners, are grateful that the Department of Labor and Industry has criteria and requirements for the licensing boards. These boards are a valued resource in recruitment and employment of licensed professionals.

Most Registered Sanitarians in Montana work for local governments and do not receive large salaries or compensation. They are not generally able to produce more income by taking on additional clients or charging independently what their time and expertise are worth. They are essential in protecting the environment and public health of all Montanans and are very difficult to recruit in Montana. Fee increases may very well be needed, however, we request you pursue base funding for the license fees from the State's general fund to offset some of the burden on those professionals primarily employed by governments to enforce government policies.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

PONDERA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: Janice Hoppes, Member