

March 1, 2023

Public Comment for House Bill 527 – Legislative Finance Committee

**HB 527**

- “Sirs / Ma'ams, HB 527 is a threat to the viability of the Montana Army and Air National Guard units throughout the state of Montana. If this passes the unintended consequences could very well be the END of Federal Funding for our Montana Guard units. All these units exist primarily funded by the Federal Government. As written, this bill would have prevented the Mont Air National Guard from coming up on Alert the morning of Sept 11th 2001...morning of 911. The 120th Fighter Wing would not have been able to deploy 6 times to Panama in support of President Bush's fight on drugs coming from Columbia. These are 2 examples of dozens and dozens of deployments that occurred while I was a member (for 40 years), and the Wing Commander for 4 years. All of these deployments were in support of the security of United States, including Montana. Preventing Montana Guard callup will make us inaccessible to the USAF and the USARMY, and they will stop funding us. Please Stop this bill!”

-Brig General (ret) Rex Tanberg, Great Falls, MT