

PUBLIC COMMENT- SUBCOMMITTEE C

SUNDAY 1-10-2021

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-12 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Stockgrowers Association

Name: Jay Bodner

Email: jay@mtbeef.org

Phone: (406) 431-4673

City, State: Helena, MT

Written Statement: The Montana Stockgrowers Association supports the Department of Livestock budget.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-12 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation

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Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Stockgrowers Association

Name: Jim Steinbeisser

Email: raylee@mtbeef.org

Phone: (406) 799-4378

City, State: Helena, MT

Written Statement: The Montana Stockgrowers Association supports the Department of Livestock's budget.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

MONDAY 1-11-2021

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-13 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Agriculture

Name: Christy Clark

Email: cclark@mt.gov

Phone: (406) 444-5406

City, State: Helena

Written Statement: Informational Witness on behalf of the department of Agriculture

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-13 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Cindy Trimp

Email: cindytrimp@mt.gov

Phone: (406) 444-5408

City, State: Helena

Written Statement: Informational Witness on behalf of the department of Agriculture

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-13 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Agriculture

Name: Mike Foster

Email: Mike.Foster@mt.gov

Phone: (406) 444-5440

City, State: Helena

Written Statement: Informational Witness on behalf of the department of Agriculture (Director)

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-13 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation
Position: Informational Witness
Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes
Organization: Montana Department of Agriculture
Name: Ian Foley
Email: ifoley@mt.gov
Phone: (406) 444-9454
City, State: Helena
Written Statement: Informational Witness on behalf of the department of Agriculture
Files:
Testify via Zoom: Yes
Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-13 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation
Position: Informational Witness
Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes
Organization: Montana Department of Agriculture
Name: Cort Jensen
Email: cojensen@mt.gov
Phone: (406) 444-5402
City, State: Helena
Written Statement: Informational Witness on behalf of the department of Agriculture
Files:
Testify via Zoom: Yes
Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-13 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation
Position: Informational Witness
Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes
Organization: Montana Department of Agriculture
Name: Chelsi Bay
Email: cbay@mt.gov
Phone: (406) 444-3684
City, State: Helena
Written Statement: Informational Witnesses on behalf of the department of Agriculture
Files:
Testify via Zoom: Yes
Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-13 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Informational Witness
Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes
Organization: Montana Department of Agriculture
Name: Zach Coccoli
Email: z.coccoli@mt.gov
Phone: (406) 444-0132
City, State: Helena
Written Statement: Informational Witness on Behalf of the department of Agriculture
Files:
Testify via Zoom: Yes
Zoom Method: Computer

Details:
Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-12 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation
Position: Proponent
Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes
Organization: Montana Milk Producers Association
Name: Krista Lee Evans
Email: blakecrk@gmail.com
Phone: (406) 439-2215
City, State: Helena, MT
Written Statement: MMPA Supports the Department of Livestock budget. MMPA dairy producers work with the Department through the milk inspections and the analysis done by the lab. This is a critical component of providing safe reliable milk for Montana consumers.
Files:
Testify via Zoom: No
Zoom Method: N/A

Details:
Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-12 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation
Position: Proponent
Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes
Organization: Montana Farm Bureau Federation
Name: Rachel Cone
Email: rachelc@mfbf.org
Phone: (970) 646-8001
City, State: Bozeman
Written Statement: MFBF support budgets for Dept of Livestock and Dept of Ag
Files:
Testify via Zoom: Yes
Zoom Method: Computer

TUESDAY 1-12-2021

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-13 08:30 AM - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Name: Rachel Cone

Email: rachelc@mbf.org

Phone: (970) 646-8001

City, State: Bozeman

Written Statement: MFBF supports the Dept of Ag's budget for this biennium

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

THURSDAY 1-14-2021

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-18 09:00 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Transportation

Name: Dwane Kailey

Email: dkailey@mt.gov

Phone: (406) 444-6414

City, State: Helena, MT

Written Statement: Present the 02 Construction Program

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

SUNDAY 1-17-2021

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-19 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: mike bousliman

Email: mbousliman@mt.gov

Phone: (406) 444-6159

City, State: helena

Written Statement: Provide testimony for HB 2 for MDT

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

SUBCOMMITTEE C PUBLIC COMMENT

Wednesday 1/27/2021

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-29 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Madison Conservation District

Name: David Laufenberg

Email: david@madisoncd.org

Phone: (608) 335-3099

City, State: Virginia City, MT

Written Statement: The Madison Conservation District supports HB-2 as it relates to the DNRC's budget and specifically we support fully funding Program 23 and CARDD. The health of our community's soil and water depend upon adequate funding to ensure projects and programs are successful. Thank you for supporting "local, common sense conservation."

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Thursday 1/28/2021

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-29 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Phillips Conservation District

Name: Jenifer Anderson

Email: phillipsconservationdistrict@gmail.com

Phone: (406) 654-1334

City, State: Malta, MT

Written Statement: Phillips Conservation District asks this committee to grant the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Conservation and Resource Development Division the budget requested.

Phillips Conservation District and our community within the District has benefited greatly over the years from the programs, funding and technical support the DNRC-CARDD staff provides. DNRC-CARDD provides Phillips CD grants that fund administration, various conservation projects, education/outreach projects, etc. DNRC-CARDD has provided Phillips CD legal assistance in implementing and defending an important ordinance our District passed. Thank you for considering our comments.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-02-01 09:00 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Lewis and Clark Conservation District

Name: Christina Evans

Email: lccd@mt.net

Phone: (406) 449-5000

City, State: Helena, MT

Written Statement: The Lewis and Clark Conservation District Board of Supervisors supports DNRC funding in House Bill 2.

The Conservation Districts Bureau (CDB) of the DNRC assists us and 57 other Conservation Districts (CDs) in the State of Montana with legal issues, technical advice, project grants, watershed planning efforts and more, on a regular basis. Their programs help with planning of projects, stream and other on-the-ground projects, youth and adult education projects and more.

Assistance from the CD specialists at the CDB is critical to ongoing operation of the CDs.

Fully funding the positions and programs in the CDB would assist the elected, unpaid and autonomous CD Boards across Montana do what they do best—local, common sense, conservation.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-29 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: IEIMT

Name: Bruce Ingraham

Email: bruce@ieimt.com

Phone: (406) 723-7885

City, State: Montana

Written Statement: Not Provided

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-29 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: IEIMT

Name: Doug Ingraham

Email: doug@ieimt.com

Phone: (406) 723-7885

City, State: Montana

Written Statement: Not Provided

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-29 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: IEIMT

Name: Marc Ingraham

Email: marc@ieimt.com

Phone: (406) 723-7885

City, State: Montana

Written Statement: Not Provided

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-29 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: TetraTech

Name: Edward Surbrugg

Email: edward.surbrugg@tetrattech.com

Phone: (406) 442-5588

City, State: Montan

Written Statement: Not Provided

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-29 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Kirby Environmental

Name: Bruce Kirby

Email: bruce@kirbyenvironmental.com

Phone: (406) 250-6902

City, State: Montana

Written Statement: Not Provided

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-29 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: MTSBA

Name: Annette Satterly
Email: asatterly@mtsba.org
Phone: (406) 457-4410
City, State: Montana
Written Statement: Not Provided
Files:
Testify via Zoom: Yes
Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-02-01 09:00 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation
Position: Proponent
Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes
Organization: Blaine County Conservation District
Name: Shannon Sattleen
Email: shannonsattleen13@gmail.com
Phone: (406) 390-4324
City, State: CHINOOK
Written Statement: The Blaine County Conservation is offering its support the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) budget request for HB 2 General Appropriations act. The DNRC specifically the Conservation District Bureau provides vital assistance to Montana's conservation Districts for the implementation of sound conservation practices for soil and water conservation throughout Montana.
Files:
Testify via Zoom: No
Zoom Method: N/A

Friday 1/29/2021

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-02-01 09:00 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation
Position: Proponent
Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes
Organization: Flathead Conservation District
Name: Hailey Graf
Email: hailey@flatheadcd.org
Phone: (406) 752-4220
City, State: Kalispell
Written Statement: Attached, please find a letter supporting HB 2 on behalf of the Flathead Conservation District.
Files: Written Testimony_HB2_FCD.pdf



January 29, 2021

Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation
RE: HB 2 General Appropriations Act

Chairman Holmlund,

The Flathead Conservation District strongly supports House Bill 2 and urges you to do the same. This bill will provide necessary funding to the Conservation Districts Bureau of DNRC, which, in turn, provides invaluable services to the Flathead Conservation District and all conservation districts across the state. This funding is absolutely essential, enabling us to administer key laws, provide technical guidance to the local community, and provide locally-led conservation to the Flathead since 1945.

Flathead Conservation District regularly receives legal support from DNRC. This support not only helps us achieve our mission as a conservation district, but it importantly ensures our work is in full compliance with applicable state and local laws. In the State of Montana, conservation districts administer the Montana Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act, known as the 310 Law. This responsibility occasionally requires legal representation or guidance and DNRC has provided this service through a contract with the Flathead County Attorney's Office. Without this support, conservation districts would have no legal support for administration of the 310 law.

DNRC also supports our district through grant opportunities. In the last legislative session alone, the Flathead Conservation District received nearly \$250,000 in grant funding for stream restoration projects, pollinator program development, construction of a conservation practices demonstration area, education and outreach programs, and district administration. The funding we receive from DNRC allows us to provide technical support and education directly to the landowners of Flathead County.

Finally, we support HB 2 because DNRC supports conservation districts across Montana through training opportunities, general leadership, and project and program planning. Most conservation districts in Montana have only one part-time staff member and a board of volunteer supervisors. It is difficult to describe how beneficial it is to conservation districts to have staff at DNRC that we can rely on for advice, guidance, and support. Without the daily support that we receive from DNRC, conservation districts would not function efficiently or effectively.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate your support and consideration of HB 2 and are available for any questions you may have.

Pete Woll, Chairman

1/29/2021

Date

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-02-02 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Salinity Control

Name: Scott Brown

Email: msca_scott@hotmail.com

Phone: (406) 899-3492

City, State: Great Falls

Written Statement: I am here representing Montana Salinity Control Association. We are a satellite of the conservation districts serving 34 counties in eastern MT experiencing salinity problems in cropland, streams and reservoirs.

Thank you for financial support in the past to our program which receives funds through DNRC CARDD division. Our funding is split 50/50 with Coal Severance Tax and General Fund. The funding we receive makes up about 65% of our overall budget. The other portion comes from what we earn doing individual on farm reclamation plans for saline seeps with landowners. This is good as it forces landowners to have "skin in the game".

This DNRC CARDD funding is very important for agriculture as currently margins are very thin and without it these producers would not be able to get the information needed to address their salinity problems.

Three years ago we developed a partnership with NRCS for salinity reclamation called Regional Conservation Partnership Program. In that program we secured about 1 million dollars of federal funds to be paid out over 5 years to landowners to implement salinity reclamation plans. This was only made possible because we can use the DNRC CARDD funds MSCA receives to use as match.

This program has been extremely successful in the last 3 years and we sure hope we can continue to receive the state funds for our program and provide match for the federal dollars that go to on the ground projects.

Salinity effects water quality and soil health, salinizing many acres of once highly productive cropland and miles of waterways and reservoirs. Often it's the down gradient or downstream landowner and public that is affected from salinity issues from degraded water quality. Often times to levels that makes the water unusable to irrigation, livestock, wildlife and municipalities.

I encourage you to continue to fully support the DNRC CARDD program as we have first hand experience of how those dollars are improving the water quality on farms and ranches.

Montana Saline Soil and Water Reclamation

Saline conditions are manifested in salt-encrusted soil that reduces or prevents vegetative growth; these white areas are known as saline seeps or discharge areas. The recharge area is the surrounding region that creates the saline conditions, but the size is not easily quantified. Montana Salinity Control Association, known as MSCA, functions through 34 conservation districts to deal with saline soil and water reclamation. MSCA provides a ground water assessment and site-specific reclamation plans for individual landowners, and groups in small and large-scale watersheds.

The reclamation process improves soil conditions and protects the State's ground water, streams and other aquatic resources. At one time, over 300,000 acres of formerly productive land had become salinized in MT, not counting range and riparian areas. Land-use changes can bring much of that land back into production. The ground and surface water that becomes degraded from salt accumulation is actually more important since that reclamation is not as readily achieved.

MSCA receives funding that is administered by the MT Dept. Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)/Conservation Districts Bureau. MSCA also competes for federal grants to address non-point source pollution (NPS) on a watershed basis. In addition, MSCA generates a portion of their revenue through user-fees from the producers and groups. The reclamation process also contributes to the economic prosperity of the State's agricultural sector by improving production and bringing federal dollars for plan implementation to the local economy.

MSCA has been instrumental in tailoring national conservation practices to solve saline problems. Since 1989, Montana has received over \$65 million through USDA programs to implement saline reclamation measures. The Conservation Title of the Farm Bill provides funding that allows local participation in conservation projects, improving opportunities to receive USDA contracts.

Since the MSCA program began, over 1300 saline sites have received site-specific recommendations. There are projects in progress or waiting for technical and financial assistance with salinity control. The federal conservation agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), does not have enough technical staff and investigative equipment to service all the saline reclamation requests. NRCS relies on MSCA and Montana conservation districts for this technical assistance because it can be completed in a timely and cost-effective manner.

MSCA is also involved in nineteen watershed-level saline projects. The size of projects ranges from about 5,000 acres to over 600,000 acres. The saline seep reclamation program is an excellent example of a locally led conservation program that coordinates the technical and financial resources of individuals, and groups from the private, county, state and federal level. MSCA has a field team with broad-based technical backgrounds that serves all of Eastern Montana. For more specific information, contact the field team at the MSCA office in Conrad, MT at 406-278-3071

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-02-02 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Natural Resources and Transportation
Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Blaine County Conservation District

Name: Bruce Anderson

Email: b_s_and@itstriangle.com

Phone: (406) 357-3117

City, State: Chinook, MT

Written Statement: The Blaine County Conservation District is offering its support for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) budget request for HB2 General Appropriations act. The DNRC's conservation district bureau provides vital assistance to Montana's conservation districts in protecting and conserving all of Montana's Natural Resources. Thank You