

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

TO: Members of the Montana Senate
Members of the House of Representatives
Secretary of State Brad Johnson
Members of the Montana Supreme Court c/o Clerk of the Court Ed Smith

STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PROCLAMATION

CALL TO THE 60TH LEGISLATURE
FOR A SPECIAL SESSION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V, section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Montana and § 5-3-101, MCA, the Governor may convene the legislature in special session; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VI, section 11 of the Constitution of the State of Montana, the Governor may convene the legislature whenever he considers it in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, since June, extremely hazardous wildland fire conditions have existed throughout the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, since mid-July, the State of Montana has been under declarations of states of emergency and disaster in order that Montana resources could be committed to responding to the fires; and

WHEREAS, in addition, because of the raging wildfires, twenty Montana counties and the Blackfeet Nation have declared states of emergency or disaster; and

WHEREAS, the cost of fire suppression to the state for the 2007 fire season already exceeds the amount of money appropriated by the legislature to suppress fires over the entire biennium; and

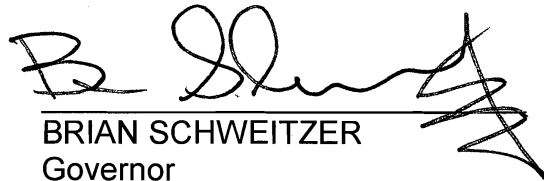
WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V, section 11 of the Constitution of the State of Montana, the power to appropriate money for the operation of state government lies exclusively with the legislative branch of government; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that the legislature promptly convene in special session so as to appropriate money and provide spending authority to pay for the actual and anticipated costs of fire suppression, disaster response, and recovery activities for the 2007 and 2008 fire seasons.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MONTANA, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Montana, do hereby convene the 60th Legislature in special session, in Helena, at the Capitol, at the hour of 8:00 a.m., the 5th day of September, 2007, and hereby limit the special session to consideration of the following subjects:

1. Appropriations necessary and anticipated for fire suppression, disaster response, and recovery activities in fiscal years 2008 and 2009;
2. Additional spending authority for emergencies and disasters and elimination of time restrictions applicable to declarations of disaster and emergency during fire season; and
3. Any appropriations necessary for the operation of the special legislative session.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Montana to be affixed. DONE at the City of Helena, the Capitol, this 27th day of August, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seven.


BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor