



# 2015 Montana State Legislative Scorecard



*Stefan Henrich photo.*



Montana Conservation Voters fights to protect clean water and air and our outdoor heritage by involving people in government. Through our affiliated political arm, MCV uniquely works to elect legislators, local and statewide officials who stand up for Montana’s conservation values. MCV is a non-partisan, grassroots membership organization with members throughout the state and chapters in Flathead, Missoula, Gallatin, Park, and Yellowstone counties.

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# Conservation Collaboration: Working Together to Protect Montana

Montana Conservation Voters determines legislative priorities in collaboration with the Conservation Working Group, a diverse coalition of groups whose staff—most of whom work in the legislature—identify common priorities to maintain healthy communities. MCV produces briefing and educational materials for lawmakers and the public throughout the session, including the weekly *Conservation Hotlist*. The *Hotlist* summarizes priority legislation, provides contact information for the lead group working on the bill, and clearly identifies the Conservation Working Group’s position on the legislation. MCV distributes the *Hotlist* to legislators and the public.

This scorecard draws votes from hotlisted bills that represent a portfolio of priority conservation and environmental issues with consensus positions among the Conservation Working Group.

We deeply appreciate the members of the Conservation Working Group, and thank them for their policy expertise and continued collaboration: Alternative Energy Resources Organization; Clark Fork Coalition; Community Food and Agriculture Coalition; Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Montana Audubon; Montana Environmental Information Center; Montana Public Interest Research Group; Montana Sierra Club; Montana Smart Growth Coalition; Montana Trout Unlimited; Montana Wilderness Association; and Northern Plains Resource Council.

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Is Montana's clean air, clear water, and wild country better off as a result of the 2015 State Legislature?

You be the judge.

The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Water Compact was passed with the leadership of Sen. Chas Vincent (R-Libby), conservationists, and a diverse coalition that teamed up with Governor Steve Bullock and Attorney General Tim Fox. The Sage Grouse Stewardship Act (Sen. Brad Hamlett, D-Cascade) will protect sage grouse habitat and provide tools and funding for long-term stewardship. These bipartisan landmarks show the importance of bringing all stakeholders to the table to pass important public policy.

Several rollbacks were killed or vetoed, including SB 114, which would have gutted Montana's highly successful Renewable Energy Standard (RES), and HB 496, yet another tired proposal to study the giveaway of federal lands. Thank you, Governor Bullock, for those vetoes.

We really *are* better off if you agree with Governor Bullock when he signed SB 325: "I hereby sign into law Senate Bill 325 in the firm belief that this bill will strengthen the ability of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to protect water quality."

We respectfully disagree. The conservation community believes that SB 325 will prohibit the Board of Environmental Review (BER) from setting water quality protections that are strong enough to protect Montana's rivers and streams. The BER will write the implementation rules for SB 325.

While reasonable people can disagree on legislation, it's hard to believe SB 325 will make water quality protections *stronger* when it was opposed by conservation advocates and heartily supported by included Arch Coal, the Montana Mining Association, and the Montana Petroleum Council. And DEQ.

That's right. The Bullock Administration's DEQ proposed the objectionable amendment to SB 325 (after it passed the Senate without our opposition) with the involvement of the coal, oil, and gas industries. Not us.

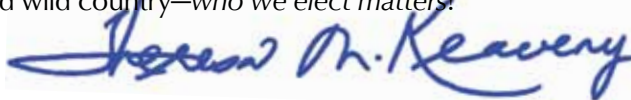
When we made our case to the Governor's office to veto SB 325, we were asked to trust the process and DEQ.

DEQ has presided over the permitting and woefully inadequate bonding of mines that have brought Montanans pollution disasters and multi-million dollar water cleanups—cleanups paid by taxpayers, not the polluters.

The Governor's signing of SB 325 asserts that the new law gives DEQ more flexibility to protect our water and concludes by saying: "It is worth noting that none of this will happen without *extensive public involvement* (emphasis ours), as the Board of Environmental Review sets out to determine the non-anthropogenic condition of streams, and DEQ proceeds to consider discharge permits for those waterways."

Please join Montana Conservation Voters in helping Governor Bullock meet the high bar for "extensive public involvement" set in his letter. Call for an inclusive process for writing the water quality implementation rules to involve diverse stakeholders—farmers, ranchers, local community members, you, and me.

As you judge whether the 2015 Legislature was a leap forward or a step back, please remember: for clean air, clear water, and wild country—*who we elect matters!*



Theresa M. Keaveny, Executive Director



**Thanks to the 127 advocates who came to one of our Lobby Days and made your voices heard. To the hundreds of people who called, texted, and e-mailed the Governor to stand up for clean air, clean water, and wild country—hats off! Grassroots accountability matters!**

## Standing up for Renewable Energy, Wildlife, and Clean Water

### NET METERING

Signed into law in 1999, net metering allows homeowners and businesses to install small, renewable energy technology such as solar panels, wind turbines, or micro-hydropower to reduce their reliance on energy generated from coal. Excess energy generated goes into the electricity grid, where other consumers will use the clean, renewable energy.

A priority of the Conservation Working Group, the set of net metering bills featured below were

intended to give homeowners, farmers, ranchers and other businesses more tools to expand our clean energy economy.

Led by the Bozeman bipartisan duo of Sen. Mike Phillips and Rep. Art Wittich, four bills were introduced that would have helped a wider array of businesses, farms, ranches,

universities, and housing developments benefit from net metering. Proponents of the bills included renewable energy installers, farmers and ranchers, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Northern Plains Resource Council, Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Renewable Energy Association, Montana Audubon, Alternative Energy Resource Organization, and Montana Farmers Union. Opponents included NorthWestern Energy, Montana-Dakota Utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

**HB 192**, by Rep. Wittich, would have increased the cap on net metering energy systems from 50 kilowatts to 1 megawatt. This increase would primarily benefit businesses, universities, and other public and commercial property owners that have higher energy use and want to offset this energy use with an onsite energy system.

**HB 188**, also by Rep. Wittich, would have allowed net metered customers to carry forward for two

years credits that are generated when their system produces more energy than they use. Currently, net metered customers have to forfeit any extra credits at the end of the year to the utility.

**SB 182**, by Sen. Phillips, would have enabled more Montanans to control their energy costs by subscribing to a community solar or wind energy system. These customers would receive a credit on their power bill according to how much of the project they own, and how much energy the system produces each month.

**SB 134**, by Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R-Thompson Falls), would have allowed farms, universities, and multi-unit housing projects with multiple electric meters on the same or adjacent property to lower costs by net metering their combined usage on just one meter.

### FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is largely funded by license fees paid by hunters, anglers, and outdoors enthusiasts. However, the structure of these fees was in dire need of restructuring. The 2013 Legislature directed the Environmental Quality Council to examine the issue and provide recommendations. Those recommendations resulted in **HB 140**, by Rep. Jeff Welborn (R-Dillon), which proposed modest increases in hunting and fishing licenses in order to improve FWP's ability to execute the many programs and jobs the department manages.

Unfortunately, **HB140** was caught in the crosshairs of several provisions that ended up reducing the



Liquid Solar Systems photo



Lisac Mark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

revenue that FWP uses to manage public lands and wildlife habitat in Montana. Adequately funding FWP will likely be an issue heading into the 2017 Legislative session.

Another key wildlife issue was **HB 557**, by Rep. Bill Harris (R-Winnett). It offered the first revision to Montana's legal fence law since 1919. The bill added 3-strand electric fences to the list of legal fences and also added a height range. At one point the bill's fence height requirement would have created a greater threat to wildlife movement, mortality, and entrapment. A bipartisan amendment from Reps. Kathleen Williams (D-Bozeman) and Alan Redfield (R-Livingston) lowered the height to ensure protection of wildlife. The resulting bill was signed by Governor Bullock on April 17th.

## OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT AND MINING

The recent boom in oil and gas production in Eastern Montana has led to an increase in the use of fracking, which pumps unknown chemicals into the ground potentially polluting water sources. A proposed copper mine near the Smith River could also have devastating effects on the Smith and important fish spawning areas. While several bills were introduced this session that would have protected our pristine water sources, none made it out of committee and were all killed.

Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D-Crow Agency) introduced **SB 172** to require a company to conduct baseline water quality testing before drilling. This would serve as a baseline in the event contamination is detected after the well starts operating. Because baseline tests are not currently required, a company can deny fault by claiming pollution existed before drilling. After being tabled in the Senate Natural Resources Committee, a "blast motion" was made so the full Senate could debate the merits of the bill. The motion failed 22-28, with all Democrats and Sen. Fielder voting in favor.

MCV-endorsed Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D-Helena) brought **HB 243** to require oil and gas companies to publicly disclose what products are being used in fracking fluids. The bill would have protected industry secrets by only requiring



disclosure of product name, not quantity. The bill would have provided landowners with critical information in the event of a spill and would have allowed them to prepare for such a disaster. The bill was tabled by the House Federal Relations, Energy & Telecommunications Committee.

On mining, MCV-endorsed Sen. Mary Sheehy Moe (D-Great Falls) introduced **SB 218**, which would have required metal mines that are likely to produce acid mine drainage to bond at 150 percent of the normal bond calculation. This requirement more adequately guarantees that there is sufficient financial resources to fully reclaim lands and to prevent public tax dollars from having to be used for cleanup. While not specifically mentioned in the bill, the intent was to address the potential environmental impacts of a proposed copper mine near the Smith River. The bill was tabled by the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Finally, MCV-endorsed Rep. Nate McConnell (D-Missoula) proposed **HB 626**, which would have prevented future environmental catastrophes like the Zortman-Landusky mine near the Fort Belknap Reservation. The water around that mine will need to be treated in perpetuity due to cyanide spills contaminating groundwater sources. HB 626 would have prohibited the Department of Environmental Quality from permitting any mine that will require perpetual treatment of the water or land. Like every other commonsense bill to protect the quality of Montana's pristine waters, McConnell's bill was tabled by the House Natural Resources Committee.



Sen. Chas Vincent

## These legislators deserve a special thank you:

**Thanks to Sen. Chas Vincent (R-Libby)**, who dedicated his time and effort this session to the passage of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Water Compact. His work is deeply appreciated.

**Thanks to Rep. Chuck Hunter (D-Helena)** for his leadership and knowledge of the rules to ensure the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Water Compact passed the House of Representatives.

**Thanks to the delegation from Lewis & Clark County**, where the average voting record improved by 32% in the House (from 40% to 72%) and by 13% in the Senate (from 44% to 57%). This is a direct result of MCV-endorsed candidates defeating two House incumbents and picking up one new seat in the Senate. Thanks to freshman **Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D-Helena)** for a 100% MCV voting score, and to freshmen **Sen. Jill Cohenour (D-East Helena)** and **Rep. Moffie Funk (D-Helena)** for 93% scores—AND to each of them for replacing legislators with MCV scores of 21%, 14%, and 13%, respectively!

**Thanks to Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D-Helena)** for her dedication to oil and gas tax holiday reform. Again this session, Senator Kaufmann introduced a bill that would have required big oil and gas companies to pay their fair share.



Sen. Jill Cohenour



Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell



Rep. Moffie Funk

## Farewell and Thank you

Join us in thanking these MCV-endorsed term-limited legislators for their service (clockwise from top left): Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D-Helena), Sen. Brad Hamlett (D-Cascade), Sen. Cliff Larsen (D-Missoula), Rep. Margie MacDonald (D-Billings), and Rep. Chuck Hunter (D-Helena).



## Notable Changes in Individual Scores

The following shows the legislators in the House and Senate with the most improved scores from 2013 to 2015 and the legislators whose scores decreased the most from 2013 to 2015.

Representative	HD	City	+/-
Zolnikov, Daniel	45	Billings	33
Clark, Christy	17	Choteau	26
Fitzpatrick, Steve	20	Great Falls	22
Swanson, Kathy	77	Anaconda	-20
Schreiner, Casey	25	Great Falls	-26
Lynch, Ryan	76	Butte	-33

Senator	SD	City	+/-
Tutvedt, Bruce	3	Kalispell	20
Vuckovich, Gene	39	Anaconda	-33
Sesso, Jon	37	Butte	-34

## Voter Rights & Citizen Participation in Government

For the first session in many years, no bill to end Election Day registration was introduced—thanks to the **defeat of LR126**, a legislative referendum to end Election Day registration that received 57 percent opposition in November 2014.

Much of MCV's attention in 2015 was focused on improving voter engagement by increasing opportunities—particularly through electronic means—to register and vote. The 2015 Legislature made small but important steps in this area.

### Voting rights bill of special interest include:

- **HB 18**, Rep. Bryce Bennett (D-Missoula): Authorizing students ages 16 and 17 to serve as election judges under limited conditions. Tabled in House State Administration Committee.
- **HB 400**, Rep. Geraldine Custer (R-Forsyth): Allowing electronic voting for people with disabilities. Signed by Governor.
- **HB 48**, Rep. Geraldine Custer (R-Forsyth): Allowing Montanans with a MT driver's license or state-issued ID to register to vote online. Tabled in House State Administration Committee.
- **HB 342**, Rep. Bryce Bennett (D-Missoula): Allowing absentee voters to confirm their address electronically. Signed by Governor.

**HB 86**, by Rep. Custer, which would have reduced the time when absentee ballots are mailed from 30 days before an election to 25 days before an election, was tabled in House

State Administration. MCV worked to ensure that neither this bill nor a section of another bill, **HB 84**, by Rep. Bryce Bennett, a 169-page 'cleanup' bill developed by the interim State Administration and Veterans Affairs Committee, would preclude absentee voters from voting in person at the county election office during the period between 30 days and 25 days before an election. We expect a directive from the Secretary of State to county election offices to that effect.

**HB 70**, also by Rep. Custer, would have established mail ballot voting for all elections but was withdrawn by request of the sponsor without a hearing. The Secretary of State and the sponsor determined there was not sufficient support to go forward. MCV would not support the bill because of concerns within the Native American community about not receiving mail ballots.

Finally, Governor Bullock stood up for open government when he vetoed **SB 248** by Sen. John Brenden (R-Scobey), which would have required anyone giving testimony to a legislative committee to provide proper identification. Failure to show ID would have prohibited their testimony from being considered as the committee deliberates issues before it. Many Montanans value their privacy and may be hesitant to say where they live. In addition, legislators already have the discretion to not factor testimony into their decision-making process; this bill was simply an intimidation tool that would have kept valuable information from the legislative process.



photo by Theresa Thompson

# 2015 House of Representatives Scores

+ : Vote in **support** of MCV's position  
 - : Vote **against** MCV's position  
 A/E : Absent or excused, not counted in score  
**BOLD** : MCV-endorsed candidates

Dist	Representative	City	Term Limit	Build the Keystone XL Pipeline	Supporting Montana's Public Lands	Restricts responsible land use planning	Slush Fund for the Attorney General	Coal Washing Tax Credit	New Public Lands Task Force	Resolution Supporting Coal	Destroy the Renewable Energy Standard
				HJ 11	HJ 19	HB 182	HB 244	HB 421	HB 496	SJ 13	SB 114
87	Ballance, Nancy	Hamilton	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
91	<b>Bennett, Bryce</b>	Missoula	2018	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
1	Bennett, Gerald (Jerry)	Libby	2016	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
58	Berglee, Seth	Joliet	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	Berry, Tom	Roundup	2016	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
9	Brodehl, Randy	Kalispell	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Brown, Bob	Thompson Falls	2022	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
63	<b>Brown, Zach</b>	Bozeman	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
67	Burnett, Tom	Bozeman	2022	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
17	Clark, Christy	Choteau	2018	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+
18	Cook, Rob	Conrad	2018	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
50	<b>Court, Virginia</b>	Billings	2018	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2	Cuffe, Mike	Eureka	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
98	<b>Curdy, Willis</b>	Missoula	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
39	Custer, Geraldine	Forsyth	2022	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
36	Doane, Alan	Bloomfield	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
94	<b>Dudik, Kimberly</b>	Missoula	2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
94	<b>Dunwell, Mary Ann</b>	Helena	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
79	<b>Eck, Jennifer</b>	Helena	2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
86	Ehli, Ron	Hamilton	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
81	<b>Ellis, Janet</b>	Helena	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
54	Essmann, Jeff	Billings	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
43	Fiscus, Clayton	Billings	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Fitzpatrick, Steve	Great Falls	2018	-	+	-	-	A/E	+	-	-
70	Flynn, Kelly	Townsend	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
82	<b>Funk, Moffie</b>	Helena	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
7	Garner, Frank	Kalispell	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Glimm, Carl	Kila	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
88	Greef, Edward	Florence	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
52	Hagstrom, Dave	Billings	2020	-	A/E	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Harris, Bill	Winnett	2018	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
66	<b>Hayman, Denise</b>	Bozeman	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
12	Hertz, Greg	Polson	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Hess, Stephanie	Havre	2022	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
90	<b>Hill, Ellie Boldman</b>	Missoula	2018	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
27	Hollandsworth, Roy	Brady	2016	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
38	Holmlund, Kenneth	Miles City	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
83	<b>Hunter, Chuck</b>	Helena	2016	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
21	Jacobson, Tom	Great Falls	2020	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
46	Jones, Donald	Billings	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
48	<b>Karjala, Jessica</b>	Billings	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
47	<b>Kelker, Kathy</b>	Billings	2022	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
15	Kipp, George	Heart Butte	2022	A/E	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
34	Knudsen, Austin	Culbertson	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60	Lamm, Debra	Livingston	2022	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
33	Lang, Mike	Malta	2020	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
53	Laszloffy, Sarah	Billings	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Lavin, Steve	Kalispell	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	<b>Lieser, Ed</b>	Whitefish	2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
76	Lynch, Ryan	Butte	2020	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+



# 2015 House of Representatives Scores

Natural condition of streams and rivers	Sage Grouse Stewardship Act	CSKT Water Compact	City Comm. Approval of Bison Relocations	Water quality standards	Bust the Coal Tax Trust Fund	Keep Colstrip units open w/o helping workers	MCV %	Past Scores			Representative
SB 160	SB 261	SB 262	SB 284	SB 325	SB 353	SB 402	Score	2013	2011	2009	
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	0	-	-	Ballance, Nancy
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	-	Bennett, Bryce
-	-	-	-	-	-	+	13	8	0	18	Bennett, Gerald (Jerry)
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	-	-	-	Berglee, Seth
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	27	27	19	27	Berry, Tom
-	-	-	-	-	-	+	7	7	6	-	Brodehl, Randy
-	-	-	-	-	-	+	13	-	-	-	Brown, Bob
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-	Brown, Zach
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	20	-	-	-	Burnett, Tom
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	40	14	19	-	Clark, Christy
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	33	21	38	-	Cook, Rob
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	-	Court, Virginia
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	0	-	Cuffe, Mike
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-	Curdy, Willis
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	Custer, Geraldine
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	0	-	-	Doane, Alan
+	+	+	+	+	+	-	93	100	-	-	Dudik, Kimberly
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-	Dunwell, Mary Ann
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	-	-	Eck, Jennifer
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	14	19	-	Ehli, Ron
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-	Ellis, Janet
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	0	13	23	Essmann, Jeff
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	-	-	Fiscus, Clayton
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	29	7	31	-	Fitzpatrick, Steve
-	+	-	-	+	-	+	20	23	6	-	Flynn, Kelly
+	+	+	+	+	+	-	93	-	-	-	Funk, Moffie
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	Garner, Frank
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	0	-	-	Glimm, Carl
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	14	13	-	Greef, Edward
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	7	-	-	Hagstrom, Dave
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	0	6	-	Harris, Bill
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-	Hayman, Denise
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	13	14	-	-	Hertz, Greg
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	27	-	-	-	Hess, Stephanie
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	-	Hill, Ellie Boldman
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	20	7	13	27	Hollandsworth, Roy
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	Holmlund, Kenneth
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	94	100	Hunter, Chuck
+	+	+	+	-	+	-	67	57	-	-	Jacobson, Tom
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	14	-	-	Jones, Donald
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-	Karjala, Jessica
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	93	-	-	-	Kelker, Kathy
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	86	-	-	-	Kipp, George
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	0	6	-	Knudsen, Austin
+	-	-	-	-	-	+	33	-	-	-	Lamm, Debra
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	14	-	-	Lang, Mike
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	7	-	-	Laszloffy, Sarah
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	7	13	-	Lavin, Steve
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	-	-	Lieser, Ed
-	+	+	+	-	+	-	53	86	-	-	Lynch, Ryan

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+: Vote in **support** of MCV's position  
 -: Vote **against** MCV's position  
 A/E: Absent or excused, not counted in score  
**BOLD**: MCV-endorsed candidates

Dist	Representative	City	Term Limit	Build the Keystone XL Pipeline	Supporting Montana's Public Lands	Restricts responsible land use planning	Slush Fund for the Attorney General	Coal Washing Tax Credit	New Public Lands Task Force	Resolution Supporting Coal	Destroy the Renewable Energy Standard
				HJ 11	HJ 19	HB 182	HB 244	HB 421	HB 496	SJ 13	SB 114
51	<b>MacDonald, Margaret</b> (Margie)	Billings	2016	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
57	Mandeville, Forrest	Columbus	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
85	Manzella, Theresa	Hamilton	2022	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
49	<b>McCarthy, Kelly</b>	Billings	2020	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
73	McClafferty, Edith (Edie)	Butte	2016	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
89	<b>McConnell, Nate</b>	Missoula	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
23	McKamey, Wendy	Great Falls	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Mehlhoff, Robert (Bob)	Great Falls	2022	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+
32	Meyers, G. Bruce	Box Elder	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
80	Miller, Mike	Helmville	2016	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-
69	Monforton, Matthew	Bozeman	2022	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
92	Moore, David (Doc)	Missoula	2020	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
44	Mortensen, Dale	Billings	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Noland, Mark	Bigfork	2022	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
74	Noonan, Pat	Ramsay	2016	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
100	<b>Olsen, Andrea</b>	Missoula	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
11	Olszewski, Albert	Kalispell	2022	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
30	Osmundson, Ryan	Buffalo	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	Pease-Lopez, Carolyn	Billings	2016	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
41	Peppers, Rae	Lame Deer	2020	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
3	Perry, Zac	Hungry Horse	2022	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
96	<b>Person, Andrew</b>	Missoula	2022	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
78	Pierson, Gordon	Deer Lodge	2020	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+
19	Pinocci, Randall	Sun River	2022	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
65	<b>Pope, Christopher</b>	Bozeman	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
24	<b>Price, Jean</b>	Great Falls	2018	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
37	Randall, Lee	Broadus	2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
59	Redfield, Alan	Livingston	2020	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
4	Regier, Keith	Kalispell	2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	Ricci, Vince	Laurel	2022	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
56	Richmond, Tom	Billings	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
93	Salomon, Daniel	Ronan	2018	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
25	Schreiner, Casey	Great Falls	2020	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
14	Schwaderer, Nicholas	Superior	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
71	Shaw, Ray	Sheridan	2020	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
31	Smith, Bridget	Wolf Point	2020	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
35	Staffanson, Scott	Sidney	2020	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
99	<b>Steenberg, Tom</b>	Missoula	2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
77	Swanson, Kathy	Anaconda	2018	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
26	Tropila, Mitch	Great Falls	2022	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
97	Tschida, Brad	Missoula	2022	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
75	Wagoner, Kirk	Montana City	2020	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-
16	Webber, Susan	Browning	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
72	Welborn, Jeffrey	Dillon	2016	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
64	White, Kerry	Bozeman	2020	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
61	<b>Williams, Kathleen</b>	Bozeman	2018	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
95	<b>Wilson, Nancy</b>	Missoula	2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
68	Wittich, Art	Bozeman	2022	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
62	<b>Woods, Tom</b>	Bozeman	2020	+	A/E	+	+	+	+	+	+
45	Zolnikov, Daniel	Billings	2020	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-

# 2015 House of Representatives Scores

Natural condition of streams and rivers	Sage Grouse Stewardship Act	CSKT Water Compact	Cnty Comm. Approval of Bison Relocations	Water quality standards	Bust the Coal Tax Trust Fund	Keep Colstrip units open w/o helping workers	MCV %	Past Scores				Representative
SB 160	SB 261	SB 262	SB 284	SB 325	SB 353	SB 402	2015	2013	2011	2009		
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	100		MacDonald, Margaret (Margie)
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-		Mandeville, Forrest
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	20	-	-	-		Manzella, Theresa
+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80	100	-	-		McCarthy, Kelly
+	+	+	+	+	+	-	80	93	81	73		McClafferty, Edith (Edie)
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-		McConnell, Nate
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	13	-	-	-		McKamey, Wendy
-	+	+	+	-	+	-	53	-	-	-		Mehlhoff, Robert (Bob)
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-		Meyers, G. Bruce
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	20	7	6	9		Miller, Mike
-	-	-	-	-	-	+	13	-	-	-		Monforton, Matthew
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	14	-	-		Moore, David (Doc)
+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13	-	-	-		Mortensen, Dale
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	20	-	-	-		Noland, Mark
+	+	+	+	+	+	-	73	86	75	64		Noonan, Pat
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-		Olsen, Andrea
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	27	-	-	-		Olszewski, Albert
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	7	0	6	-		Osmundson, Ryan
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	93	100	94	91		Pease-Lopez, Carolyn
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	80	86	-	-		Peppers, Rae
+	+	+	+	+	+	-	73	-	-	-		Perry, Zac
+	+	+	+	+	+	-	87	-	-	-		Person, Andrew
-	+	+	-	+	+	-	53	71	-	-		Pierson, Gordon
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	27	-	-	-		Pinocci, Randall
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-		Pope, Christopher
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	93	100	-		Price, Jean
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	6	0		Randall, Lee
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	14	-	-		Redfield, Alan
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	7	0	0	18		Regier, Keith
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	27	-	-	-		Ricci, Vince
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-		Richmond, Tom
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	27	14	6	-		Salomon, Daniel
+	+	+	+	-	+	-	67	93	-	-		Schreiner, Casey
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	-	-		Schwaderer, Nicholas
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	27	7	-	-		Shaw, Ray
+	+	+	+	+	+	-	73	86	-	-		Smith, Bridget
-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-		Staffanson, Scott
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	-	-		Steenberg, Tom
+	+	+	+	+	+	-	80	100	88	-		Swanson, Kathy
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	87	93	100	92		Tropila, Mitch
-	+	-	-	-	-	+	20	-	-	-		Tschida, Brad
-	-	-	-	-	-	+	20	7	-	-		Wagoner, Kirk
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-		Webber, Susan
-	+	+	-	-	-	-	27	7	0	18		Welborn, Jeffrey
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	7	-	-		White, Kerry
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	-		Williams, Kathleen
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	-	-		Wilson, Nancy
+	-	-	-	+	-	+	33	20	31	-		Wittich, Art
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	-	-		Woods, Tom
+	-	-	-	-	+	+	33	0	-	-		Zolnikov, Daniel

# 2015 Senate Scores

+ : Vote in **support** of MCV's position  
 - : Vote **against** MCV's position  
 A/E : Absent or excused, not counted in score  
**BOLD** : MCV-endorsed candidates

Dist.	Senator	City	Term Limit	Build the Keystone XL Pipeline HJ 11	Slush Fund for the Attorney General HB 244	Coal Washing Tax Credit HB 421	New Public Lands Task Force HB 496	Resolution Supporting Coal SJ 13	Destroy the Renewable Energy Standard SB 114	Natural condition of streams and rivers SB 160	Community Net Metering SB 182
20	Ankney, Duane	Colstrip	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Arntzen, Elsie	Billings	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	Barrett, Debby	Dillon	2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	<b>Barrett, Dick</b>	Missoula	2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
4	Blasdel, Mark	Kalispell	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Brenden, John	Scobey	2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Brown, Dee	Hungry Horse	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Brown, Taylor	Huntley	2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Buttrey, Edward	Great Falls	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41	Caferro, Mary	Helena	2018	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
42	<b>Cohenour, Jill</b>	East Helena	2022	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
43	Connell, Pat	Hamilton	2022	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
25	<b>Driscoll, Robyn</b>	Billings	2020	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
50	<b>Facey, Tom</b>	Missoula	2018	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
7	Fielder, Jennifer	Thompson Falls	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	<b>Hamlett, Bradley</b>	Cascade	2016	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
14	Hansen, Kris	Havre	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Hinkle, Jedediah	Bozeman	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Hoven, Brian	Great Falls	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
29	Howard, David	Park City	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Jones, Llew	Conrad	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Kary, Douglas (Doug)	Billings	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	<b>Kaufmann, Christine</b>	Helena	2016	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
38	Keane, Jim	Butte	2016	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
5	Keenan, Bob	Bigfork	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
47	<b>Larsen, Cliff</b>	Missoula	2016	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
46	<b>Malek, Sue</b>	Missoula	2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
24	<b>McNally, Mary</b>	Billings	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
12	<b>Moe, Mary Sheehy</b>	Great Falls	2022	A/E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
19	Moore, Frederick (Eric)	Miles City	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	<b>Phillips, Mike</b>	Bozeman	2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
33	<b>Pomnichowski, JP</b>	Bozeman	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
10	Ripley, Rick	Wolf Creek	2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Rosendale, Matthew	Glendive	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Sales, Scott	Bozeman	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49	<b>Sands, Diane</b>	Missoula	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
37	Sesso, Jon	Butte	2020	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-
27	Smith, Cary	Billings	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon	Crow Agency	2016	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+
30	Swandal, Nels	Wilsall	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Taylor, Janna	Dayton	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	Thomas, Fred	Stevensville	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Tutvedt, Bruce	Kalispell	2016	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
34	Vance, Gordon	Belgrade	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Vincent, Chas	Libby	2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39	Vuckovich, Gene	Anaconda	2018	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
23	Webb, Roger	Billings	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Whitford, Lea	Cut Bank	2022	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
16	Windy Boy, Jonathan	Box Elder	2016	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+
48	<b>Wolken, Cynthia</b>	Missoula	2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

# 2015 Senate Scores

Sage Grouse Stewardship Act	CSKT Water Compact	Cnty Comm. Approval of Bison Relocations	Water quality standards	Bust the Coal Tax Trust Fund	Tightening the Oil & Gas Tax Holiday	Keep Colstrip units open w/o helping workers	MCV %	Past Scores				Senator
SB 261	SB 262	SB 284	SB 325	SB 353	SB 374	SB 402	2015	2013	2011	2009		
+	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	23	19	27	Ankney, Duane	
+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13	7	9	27	Arntzen, Elsie	
+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13	7	6	8	Barrett, Debby	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	100	Barrett, Dick	
+	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	0	0	9	Blasdel, Mark	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	7	0	8	Brenden, John	
+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13	7	-	36	Brown, Dee	
+	+	-	+	-	-	-	20	13	13	31	Brown, Taylor	
+	+	-	-	A/E	-	-	14	0	0	-	Buttrey, Edward	
+	+	+	-	+	+	-	73	93	94	100	Caferro, Mary	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	93	-	-	100	Cohenour, Jill	
+	+	-	-	-	-	-	20	7	31	-	Connell, Pat	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	87	100	94	91	Driscoll, Robyn	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	-	Facey, Tom	
-	-	-	-	-	A/E	-	0	13	-	-	Fielder, Jennifer	
+	+	-	-	+	+	-	40	53	81	69	Hamlett, Bradley	
+	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	0	6	-	Hansen, Kris	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	Hinkle, Jedediah	
+	+	-	-	-	-	+	27	14	50	36	Hoven, Brian	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	6	0	Howard, David	
+	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	13	13	30	Jones, Llew	
+	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	7	19	-	Kary, Douglas (Doug)	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	100	Kaufmann, Christine	
+	+	-	-	+	+	-	33	53	50	54	Keane, Jim	
-	-	-	-	-	-	+	7	-	-	-	Keenan, Bob	
+	+	+	-	+	+	-	73	87	100	100	Larsen, Cliff	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	100	Malek, Sue	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	-	McNally, Mary	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-	Moe, Mary Sheehy	
+	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	13	-	Moore, Frederick (Eric)	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	93	86	100	91	Phillips, Mike	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	-	100	Pomnichowski, JP	
+	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	0	8	Ripley, Rick	
+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13	0	6	-	Rosendale, Matthew	
-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7	0	-	0	Sales, Scott	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	93	-	-	100	Sands, Diane	
+	+	+	-	+	+	-	53	87	73	82	Sesso, Jon	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	7	0	0	Smith, Cary	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	87	100	94	83	Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon	
+	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	Swandal, Nels	
+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13	7	0	0	Taylor, Janna	
+	+	-	-	-	-	+	20	13	-	-	Thomas, Fred	
+	+	-	-	-	-	-	20	0	6	23	Tutvedt, Bruce	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	9	Vance, Gordon	
+	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	7	0	27	Vincent, Chas	
+	-	-	-	-	+	-	27	60	69	-	Vuckovich, Gene	
+	-	-	+	-	-	+	20	7	-	-	Webb, Roger	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	93	100	-	-	Whitford, Lea	
+	+	+	-	-	+	+	67	80	94	77	Windy Boy, Jonathan	
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	-	-	-	Wolken, Cynthia	

## The following votes are featured in the 2015 legislative scorecard:

### ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

#### **SB 114: Destroy the Renewable Energy Standard**

**Sponsor:** Sen. Debby Barrett (R-Dillon). SB 114 would have made the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) meaningless. It eliminated incentives for new, diverse, and often community-based renewable energy development like wind, swamping the standard by counting the energy produced by dams. Similar bills were introduced in past sessions. Proponents included NorthWestern Energy and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Opponents included the MT Department of Environmental Quality and conservation groups like Alternative Energy Resources Organization, the Montana Environmental Information Center, Northern Plains Resource Council, and MontPIRG.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Vote Scored:** 2nd Reading, Passed 33-17  
**House Vote Scored:** 3rd Reading, Passed 55-45  
**Bill Status:** Vetoed

#### **HJ 11: Resolution to Build the Keystone XL Pipeline**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Mike Lang (R-Billings). This resolution supports construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would allow a Canadian corporation to ship oil to Asia via Gulf Coast refineries. Development of the tar sands has proven to be a major contributor to climate change and pollution of our air and water. HJ 11 includes no provisions to protect landowner property rights, increase bonding to clean up environmental disasters, provide for emergency action plans,

or require the use of best construction practices and materials. Proponents included the Montana Petroleum Association and Montana Contractors Association. Opponents included Montana Environmental Information Center and Montana Audubon.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Vote Scored:** 3rd Reading, Passed 35-14  
**House Vote Scored:** 3rd Reading, Passed 71-28  
**Bill Status:** Filed with Secretary of State

#### **HB 244: Slush Fund for the Attorney General**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Jeff Essmann (R-Billings). This bill creates a \$1 million slush fund for Montana Attorney General Tim Fox to initiate litigation in Oregon and Washington in support of coal export terminals. Proponents included the Montana Coal Council, Arch Coal, Cloud Peak Energy, and PPL. Opponents included Northern Plains Resource Council and Montana Environmental Information Center.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Vote Scored:** 3rd Reading, Passed 33-17  
**House Vote Scored:** 2nd Reading, Passed 55-45  
**Bill Status:** Law

#### **HB 421: Coal Washing Tax Credit**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Tom Berry (R-Roundup). This bill extends a tax credit to the Signal Peak mine in the Bull Mountains for using a process that already makes its coal more valuable. Coal washing literally washes unwanted materials from coal mined at Signal Peak, a practice the mine would use even without the tax credit. This bill costs the State more than



\$1.5 million per year and reduces local revenues by about \$400,000. Proponents included the Montana Coal Council and Signal Peak Energy. Opponents included the Department of Revenue and conservation groups.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Vote Score:** 3rd Reading, Passed 36-14  
**House Vote Score:** 3rd Reading, Passed 58-41  
**Status:** Law

## SB 353: Bust the Coal Tax Trust Fund

**Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Ripley (R-Wolf Creek). This bill would have put a constitutional referendum on the Montana ballot that would have capped the coal tax trust fund and used that money for building programs. The bill would make it easier for the legislature to divert coal trust money in the future by requiring a lesser vote of the legislature than is required today. Proponents included the MT Chamber of Commerce and Treasure State Resource Industry Association. Opponents included the Governor's Budget Director, MEA-MFT, Citizens for the Coal Tax Trust Fund, and conservation groups.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Voted Score:** 3rd Reading, Passed 30-19  
**House Vote Score:** 3rd Reading, Passed 59-41  
**Bill Status:** Dead

## SB 402: Keeping Colstrip Units Open Without Helping Workers

**Sponsor:** Sen. Duane Ankney (R-Colstrip). This bill would have charged out-of-state utilities millions of dollars per year for up to 40 years if one or more companies decided to close units one or two of the Colstrip coal-fired power plant. None of the fees associated with the shutdown were guaranteed to directly benefit workers or impacted Tribal communities. The bill was not only unconstitutional, it was terrible public policy, sending the message to Montana businesses that the legislature may require even a not profitable business to continue operations if it creates jobs in a community. Proponents included the AFL-CIO, IBEW, and Arch Coal. Opponents included the Montana Taxpayers Association, Montana Environmental Information Center, Northwest Energy Coalition, and MontPIRG.



photo by David T. Hanson

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Vote Score:** 2nd Reading, Passed 26-24  
**House Vote Score:** 2nd Reading, Failed 43-57  
**Bill Status:** Dead

## SJ 13: Resolution Supporting Coal

**Sponsor:** Sen. Duane Ankney (R-Colstrip). This resolution supports the development of coal as an energy source. Coal is an incredibly dirty form of energy that pollutes our water, fouls our air, and contributes to irreversible climate change. Coal is also becoming increasingly expensive as a source of electricity while renewable, clean energy sources provide cheaper power. The resolution also ignores Montana's other abundant sources of energy such as wind and solar. Proponents included the Montana Coal Council, Montana Chamber of Commerce, NorthWestern Energy, Cloud Peak Energy, Montana-Dakota Utilities, Treasure State Resource Industry Association, and the Montana AFL-CIO. Opponents included the Montana Environmental Information Center.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Vote Score:** 3rd Reading, Passed 37-13  
**House Vote Score:** 2nd Reading, Passed 73-27  
**Bill Status:** Filed with Secretary of State

## SB 182: Community Net Metering

**Sponsor:** Sen. Mike Phillips (D-Bozeman). Many Montanans would like to control their energy costs with rooftop solar power but don't own

a good site or can't afford a full system. This bill would have allowed utility customers to subscribe to a community solar or wind energy system and receive a credit on their power bill according to how much of the project they own and how much energy the system produces each month. This bill would have applied to investor-owned utilities (NorthWestern and Montana Dakota Utilities) but not rural electric co-ops. Proponents included Montana Environmental Information Center, Northern Plains Resource Council, and solar panel installers from across the state. Opponents included NorthWestern Energy and IBEW.

**Conservation Community Position:** Support  
**Senate Vote Scored:** Blast Motion, Failed 19-31  
**Bill Status:** Dead

## CLEAN WATER

### SB 262: CSKT Water Compact

**Sponsor:** Sen. Chas Vincent (R-Libby). The 2015 legislative session was the final opportunity for the State to ratify the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Water Compact. If the Legislature had not approved the compact, the Tribes would have filed in the Montana Water Court and pursued litigation to adjudicate their water rights by June 30, 2015. The CSKT Compact is a commonsense solution to the dif-

ficult challenge of tribal reserved water rights. It offers a more certain path into the future for water users and the people of Montana. Proponents included Montana Trout Unlimited, Tribal Nations, Governor Steve Bullock, and Attorney General Tim Fox. Opposition included the Flathead Joint Board of Control, Montana Land and Water Alliance, and the Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association.

**Conservation Community Position:** Support  
**Senate Vote Scored:** 3rd Reading, Passed 31-19  
**House Vote Scored:** 3rd Reading, Passed 53-47  
**Bill Status:** Law

### SB 325: Water Quality Standards

**Sponsor:** Sen. Jim Keane (D-Butte). This bill muddies up the definition of "natural," whether the Department of Environmental Quality has to abide by water quality standards, and whether the State can ever adopt a standard stricter than the federal standard. SB 325 proposes to use a "broad brush" approach to deal with the complex issue of water quality standards. This way, it dodges the argument of being "special legislation." Proponents included the Montana Coal Council and the Montana Petroleum Association. Opponents included Northern Plains Resource Council, Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Audubon, and the Tongue River Water Users Association.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Vote Scored:** 3rd Reading, Passed 33-17  
**House Vote Scored:** 2nd Reading, Passed 62-38  
**Bill Status:** Law

### SB 160: Natural Condition of Streams and Rivers

**Sponsor:** Sen. Duane Ankney (R-Colstrip). This bill would have defined the natural condition of a water body to include human-caused pollution. This existing provision of law violates the federal Clean Water Act and should be eliminated from state law. Governor Bullock vetoed it, in part, because it conflicted with SB





325 and would have created confusion in state law. Proponents included Arch Coal, the Montana Coal Council, and Montana Mining Association. Opponents included Tongue River Water Users Association, Montana Environmental Information Center, and Northern Plains Resource Council.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Vote Score:** 3rd Reading, Passed 36-14  
**House Vote Score:** 3rd Reading, Passed 58-42  
**Bill Status:** Vetoed

## WILDLIFE & PUBLIC LANDS

### HJ 19: Supporting Montana's Public Lands

**Sponsor:** Rep. Ed Lieser (D-Whitefish). This resolution would have reaffirmed the State of Montana's opposition to taking over, selling off, or litigating for control of federal public lands within Montana. HJ 19 emphasized the State's support for those lands and the recreational, economic, and wildlife habitat benefits the lands provide. Supporters included the Montana Wilderness Association, Montana Audubon, Montana Trout Unlimited, and the Montana Wildlife Federation. No opponents testified yet the resolution was tabled in committee and a motion to send HJ 19 to the House floor failed.

**Conservation Community Position:** Support  
**House Vote Score:** Blast Motion, Failed 44-54  
**Bill Status:** Dead

### SB 261: Sage Grouse Stewardship Act

**Sponsor:** Sen. Brad Hamlett (D-Cascade). This bill creates the Sage Grouse Oversight Team to implement Governor Bullock's Sage Grouse Management Plan. The bill provides a framework to enable Montana to conserve our sage grouse populations and enact voluntary conservation measures on private and public lands. Conservation groups such as Montana Audubon, working with the oil and gas industry, helped craft this Montana-made solution to protect the sage grouse population.

**Conservation Community Position:** Support  
**Senate Vote Score:** 3rd Reading, Passed 42-8  
**House Vote Score:** 3rd Reading, Passed 89-11  
**Bill Status:** Law



### HB 496: New Public Lands Task Force

*Upper Missouri Breaks NM, BLM photo.*

**Sponsor:** Rep. Kerry White (R-Bozeman). This bill would have created a new Public Lands Task Force—at a cost of \$35,000—to study federal public lands management. Originally restricted to lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, the task force was expanded to include all federal lands except for national parks and wilderness areas. That definition would have included Indian Reservations, the interstate highway system, national wildlife refuges, and Department of Defense lands such as Malmstrom Air Force Base and Army Corps of Engineer dams like Fort Peck Dam. While billed as a study of federal land management, the task force was a backdoor to talks of transferring or selling off public lands, a point made by Governor Bullock in his veto message. Proponents included Senator Jennifer Fielder and Citizens for Balanced Use. Opponents included the Montana Bow Hunters Association, Montana Sportsman Alliance, Montana Wood Products Association, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, outfitters, and conservation groups.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Vote Score:** 3rd Reading, Passed 27-23  
**House Vote Score:** 2nd Reading, Passed 51-49  
**Bill Status:** Vetoed

## **SB 284: County Commission Approval of Bison Relocations**

**Sponsor:** Sen. John Brenden (R-Scobey). This bill would have required county commissioners to review any proposal made by the Department of Livestock or the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to authorize the transplantation or relocation of any wild buffalo or wild bison certified as brucellosis-free on public or private land. The bill would have violated tribal sovereignty for tribes that want to maintain their own bison herds. Most Montana Indian reservation overlap counties, and tribes would have been required to get approval from the counties for what would be an activity on federal lands. Proponents included the Montana Association of Counties, Montana Stock Growers Association, and Montana Wool Growers Association. Opponents included the Montana Wildlife Federation, Montana Audubon, Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Sierra Club.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**Senate Vote Scored:** 3rd Reading, Passed 32-18  
**House Vote Scored:** 2nd Reading, Passed 60-40  
**Bill Status:** Vetoed

## **RESPONSIBLE LAND USE**

### **HB 182: Restrict Responsible Land Use Planning**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Forrest Mandeville (R-Columbus). This bill would have prohibited local governments from considering how land proposed to be subdivided would be used unless the land is zoned. This bill would have severely weakened a local government's ability to consider the impacts a pro-

posed development might have on water quality, wildlife, agricultural lands, and local services such as police, fire, transportation, and public health in un-zoned areas during the subdivision review process. No proponents testified in support of the bill. Opponents included the Montana Association of Counties, Montana Association of Planners, Montana Smart Growth Coalition, and Montana Environmental Information Center.

**Conservation Community Position:** Oppose  
**House Vote Scored:** 3rd Reading, Failed 41-59  
**Bill Status:** Dead

## **IMPACTS OF OIL & GAS**

### **SB 374: Tightening the Oil & Gas Tax Holiday**

**Sponsor:** Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D-Helena). This bill would have required oil and gas companies to pay their fair tax share through a production tax when the price of oil is \$52.59 per barrel or higher. The price trigger was set for inflationary adjustment. Half of the revenue generated would have gone to cities and towns in oil-producing counties, and the other half would have gone into the general fund. Proponents included the Montana Budget & Policy Center, Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Northern Plains Resource Council, Montana Human Rights Network, and Montana Audubon. Opponents included the Montana Petroleum Association, Montana Chamber of Commerce, and Treasure State Resource Industry Association.

**Conservation Community Position:** Support  
**Senate Vote Scored:** Blast Motion, Failed 21-28  
**Bill Status:** Dead



photo by Greg Coebel

LEGISLATURE	2015	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003
Score Average	47	41	41	52	53	60	47
Democratic Score Avg.	87	91	93	89	91	96	85
Republican Score Avg.	15	8	11	16	15	21	8

SENATE	2015	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003
Score Average	40	40	47	50	59	60	40
Democratic Score Avg.	81	86	92	87	89	94	78
Republican Score Avg.	10	7	11	18	26	19	13

HOUSE	2015	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003
Score Average	47	41	38	53	50	59	44
Democratic Score Avg.	89	94	93	91	92	92	88
Republican Score Avg.	17	8	12	15	9	22	5

BY COUNTY (Senate)	2015	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003
Cascade	32	49	55	88	73	85	71
Flathead	29	6	18	28	34	30	6
Gallatin	24	46	61	58	59	60	60
Lewis and Clark	57	44	53	58	69	57	58
Missoula	94	84	71	100	92	92	62
Ravalli	20	10	19	31	53	33	0
Silver Bow	31	70	63	77	97	94	33
Yellowstone	39	36	41	45	48	61	28

BY COUNTY (House)	2015	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003
Cascade	47	50	56	80	71	83	61
Flathead	33	15	4	36	27	38	16
Gallatin	59	55	43	57	52	45	41
Lewis and Clark	72	40	44	74	59	66	55
Missoula	77	76	77	90	82	86	68
Ravalli	15	9	25	7	16	19	9
Silver Bow	52	90	71	78	71	88	61
Yellowstone	44	36	35	38	40	55	42

Montana's people are feeling the impacts of increasing partisanship and polarization as a result of increasing dark money and the effects of term limits. Both have nearly eliminated the statesmanship and bipartisan camaraderie the used to characterize our citizen government.

However, as MCV works to elect and educate more conservation-minded legislators, we are seeing positive trends in legislators' conservation scores. On average, legislators voted with the conservation community 47% of the time, up from 41% in 2013. Adding key legislators in Lewis & Clark County saw the House average jump from 40% to 72%. Increases also occurred in Flathead, Missoula, Ravalli, and Yellowstone Counties.





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## Know the Score

Use this scorecard to find out how your legislators voted. Together, we will transform that knowledge into power!



- 1. THANK LEGISLATORS** who stood with Montanans and resisted attacks on clean water, our right to a clean and healthful environment, and our clean energy economy.
- 2. CALL ON LEGISLATORS** who stood with corporate polluters to explain their votes.
- 3. HOLD ACCOUNTABLE** legislators with poor conservation voting records. Help us recruit candidates who will fight for clean water and public health.
- 4. SUPPORT MONTANA CONSERVATION VOTERS.** Together, we will help elect legislators who will fight for Montana's outdoor heritage.

## 2015 Municipal Elections Calendar

<b>JULY 2</b>	Deadline to file as a candidate
<b>AUGUST 17</b>	Close of primary regular voter registration
<b>AUGUST 18</b>	Beginning of late registration
<b>AUGUST 26</b>	Date by which primary election ballots must be available
<b>SEPTEMBER 15</b>	<b>PRIMARY ELECTION DAY</b>
<b>OCTOBER 5</b>	Close of regular voter registration
<b>OCTOBER 6</b>	Beginning of late registration
<b>OCTOBER 14</b>	Date by which general election ballots must be available
<b>NOVEMBER 3</b>	<b>ELECTION DAY</b>