Please Support:

SB 24, Increase optional light motor vehicle registration fee for parks and recreation, Sen. Gauthier (R-Helena) Senate Fish and Game Committee, Hearing 01/17/2019 3p.m., Support. This bill would increase funding for trails and outdoor recreation. The bill would increase the voluntary motor vehicle registration donation from six to nine dollars to generate an additional estimated $1.8 million for trails, State Parks, and fishing access sites. Currently, the demand for trails and recreational opportunities far exceeds federal funding currently available to maintain and improve trails and state parks. Of the additional $3, $1.38 dollars of each fee would directly support a new Montana trails and recreation grant program similar to the federal Recreational Trails Program. Of the roughly $1.8 million, $866,466 would be allocated for the trails fund, $860,187 would be allocated to State Parks, and $156,969 would be allocated for fishing access sites. Contact Noah Marion, Montana Wilderness Association, 406.624.9622, nmarion@wildmontana.org

Please Oppose:

SB 33, Revise subdivision laws, Sen. Richmond (R-Billings), Senate Local Government Committee, Hearing 01/16/2019 at 3pm, Oppose. This bill reduces transparency, oversight, and public participation in the subdivision approval process opening the door to massive, unregulated subdivision development. SB 33 eliminates subsequent reviews by the governing body (e.g. county commission, city council or commission) beyond the initial subdivision review. Instead, with this bill, the subdivider must provide notice to the governing body before commencing each phase but the governing body is only allowed to review the notice for completeness and compliance and must approve the commencement of the next phase within 20 days. These "phases" can be enormous and have consequences for communities, the landscape, and county and city planning for decades to come. Without a review, the governing body will be forced to consider any issues that have arisen since the initial subdivision review and the possible future impacts of what could be a massive development in less than three weeks without any input from interested parties. SB 33 is a radical departure from existing law that will tie the hands of counties and cities in regulating future subdivision development. Contact Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council, 509.845.9309, Cody@northernplains.org

The Weekly Hotlist is published as an educational service to lawmakers and citizens by the Conservation Working Group, comprised of the organizations listed below. Contact Alex Rich, Montana Conservation Voters at 406.254.1593 ext. 2.
