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 01/29/2019 at 3p.m., Rm. 422; Support. This bill would increase funding for trails and outdoor recreation by increasing 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. Contact Noah Marion, Montana Wilderness Association, 406.624.9622, nmarion@wildmontana.org

**SB 97, Generally revising laws related to common carrier pipelines, Sen. Smith (D-Poplar)** Senate Natural Resources, Hearing 01/30/2019 at 3 p.m.; Rm. 303; Support. Requires pipeline permit applicants to complete construction within seven years of their application approval. Applicants who fail to meet this deadline will have to reapply. It will also require that agencies evaluate the impacts to cultural resources, such as important Native American sites, when conducting an environmental impact statement for a pipeline application. SB 97 also requires installation of shut-off valves to protect critical freshwater resources, leak detection equipment to improve response times for pipeline bursts, and siting requirements to avoid “sensitive” areas. Contact Derf Johnson, MEIC, 406.581.4634

**SB 120, Limiting restaurant distribution of plastic straws unless requested, Sen. Malek (D-Missoula)** S-Business, Labor & Economic Affairs, Support. This bill would limit retail food establishments from providing single-use plastic straws unless they were requested by the consumer. This bill is a sensible step forward in reducing the estimated 500 million straws used daily in the US. Contact Wyatt Smith, MT Audubon, 406.241.7897

**SB 121, Establish a fee for disposable carryout bags, Sen. Malek (D-Missoula)** S- Business, Labor & Economic Affairs, Support. This bill would require disposable plastic or paper bags be 100% recyclable, contain a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content (if paper), be made of high-density polyethylene film marked with the SP resin ID codes #2 or #4 (if plastic), display the phrase “Please Recycle This Bag”, in a “highly visible manner on the bag exterior,” and add a 4-cent fee onto disposable carryout bags for business owners. Contact Wyatt Smith, MT Audubon, 406.241.7897

PLEASE OPPOSE

**SB 102, Revise motor vehicle registration fees, Sen. Webb (R-Billings)** S- Fish and Game Committee, Hearing 01/29/2019 at 3p.m.; Rm. 422; Oppose. This bill would change the $6 motor vehicle registration fee from an opt-out to an opt-in fee. It would blow a nearly $2 million hole in the State Parks budget at a time when the parks are going through a big push to make targeted improvements. Vote NO on this bad bill for our state park system. Contact Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation, 406.533.9432, ngevock@mtwf.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.*