

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



JOHN WALSH
LT. GOVERNOR

April 26, 2013

The Honorable Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Secretary McCulloch:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto Senate Bill 114 (SB 114), "AN ACT MAINTAINING THE SAME YEARLONG REGISTRATION PERIOD AFTER THE TRANSFER OF A VEHICLE TO A SUBSEQUENT OWNER; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-311 AND 61-3-317, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

SB 114 changes the registration date on motor vehicles, trailers, semi-trailers, or pole trailers from the date when ownership is transferred to the date when a vehicle is first registered. Under this proposal, the purchaser of a used vehicle will not have to register the vehicle until the vehicle's registration renewal date. The impact of SB 114 is a significant loss of revenue to state and county general funds.

The budget I proposed was balanced, left money in the bank for a rainy day, cut taxes for small businesses and homeowners, and maintained critical services. I laid out clear and basic expectations for the Legislature in preparing a budget. First, Montana's budget needs to be in structural balance – we cannot spend more than we take in. Second, to ensure sound fiscal management, the Legislature needs to maintain a reserve of \$300 million in ending fund balance. Finally, essential services and long-term liabilities must be addressed before the Legislature creates new programs or tax expenditures. However well-intentioned SB 114 may be, we simply cannot afford it.

For these reasons, I veto SB 114.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Steve Bullock in black ink.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

cc: Legislative Services Division
Jeff Essmann, President of the Senate
Mark Blasdel, Speaker of the House