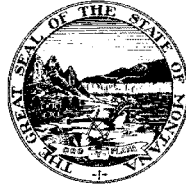


OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

May 10, 2011

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 House Bill No. 100 (HB 100), **"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FISCAL NOTES THAT INCLUDE BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENTS; AND AMENDING SECTION 5-4-203, MCA."**

Last week I vetoed SB 198, which would have required the Budget Office to prepare fiscal notes concerning impacts to the private sector and "behavior changes" that would occur as a result of legislation. House Bill 100 similarly would direct that the majority and minority leaders could each request up to 3, for a total of 12, business impact statements to be prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Division during a legislative session.

I issue this veto of HB 100 for similar reasons to my veto of SB 198. Like agencies within the executive branch, I do not believe that the Legislative Fiscal Division has adequate expertise to analyze the fiscal impact of legislation on the private sector. In addition, where Montana's Legislature is subject to the same open meeting and public participation laws as the Executive, the private sector is fully capable of and best-suited to explain the fiscal impact of legislation on businesses. To require bureaucrats – regardless of the branch of government – to determine the fiscal impact of legislation on the private sector is unnecessary, inappropriate, and a wasteful use of resources. I believe HB 100 is another example of a "solution in search of a problem."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BS", followed by a stylized flourish.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

cc: Legislative Services Division