

Montana Senate Conservation Hotlist Week 11: March 13, 2023

PLEASE SUPPORT:

HB 188- Extend funding to Coal Board, Rep. Gary Parry (R-Colstrip), Transmitted to Senate on 2.2, Hearing scheduled in Senate Taxation Committee for 3.14, Support. HB 188 would extend the funding levels from the coal trust tax to local communities impacted by the increase or decline of coal development. Communities deserve continued support for funding to help offset the impacts of coal development. For more information, contact Anne Hedges, MEIC, 406-461-9546/ahedges@meic.org.

PLEASE OPPOSE:

SB 442, Allow marijuana tax revenue to be used for county road maintenance, Sen. Mike Lang, (R-Malta), Bill passed out of Senate Taxation Committee, Oppose. This bill would take marijuana tax revenue that was directed to Habitat Montana under previous legislation and redirect it towards county road maintenance. This would shortchange Habitat Montana by more than \$30 million dollars. Habitat Montana is an important habitat protection and access program that provides state funds for the acquisition of conservation easements and Wildlife Management Areas. In the last year, money from this fund was used to purchase land for the Big Snowy Mountains WMA and an addition for the Mount Haggin WMA. For more information, contact Jocelyn Leroux at jocelyn@mtvoters.org/406-794-0016.

The Weekly Hotlist is published as an educational service to lawmakers and citizens by the Conservation Working Group, composed of the organizations listed below.

For questions, please contact Molly Bell with MCV at 406-698-9440 or Jocelyn Leroux with MCV at 406-794-0016

Clark Fork Coalition * Montana Audubon * Montana Conservation Voters * Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Renewable Energy Association * Northern Plains Resource Council