



December 15, 2010

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# Heard It Through The Pipeline

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## BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Many of you have seen a press release from Montana's newly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President setting aside some time on January 8<sup>th</sup> to listen to Montana business on ideas to improve the business climate in Montana and create jobs. This invitation has led to significant discussion among business groups and individual members about how the meeting will be set up and what is expected. I have spoken to the Speaker and understand that the joint meeting is intended to bring specific ideas to members of the House and Senate that can lead to actual bills. This is not a session where industry or businesses talk about our industry and our impact to the economy, etc.

They plan to invite industry spokespersons from all of Montana industries so you can imagine that the presentations will be many and they will need to be time constrained. MPA is intends to present issues for the oil and gas industry in Montana but needs your help to make a meaningful presentation. The goal here is to give specific ideas on what changes need to occur, and be specific enough that the legislators can take these ideas and get them introduced in the system.

MPA is working with other industry partners on issues that cut across all of us and we will report on those ideas as they get finalized.

I need to understand what specific ideas you may have that MPA can aggregate and present on Jan 8<sup>th</sup>. An opportunity like this does not come forward often and MPA would be wise to offer specific ideas. It is particularly important given the new poll released this week by the Chamber of Commerce showing overwhelming support for natural resource development.

**Please take a minute to think about how we can do things better in Montana and send your ideas to me by 12.22.10** I will aggregate any ideas I receive and review that list with the MPA legislative committee and Board of Directors.

I appreciate your help.



December 7, 2010

# Heard It Through The Pipeline

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## MPA LEGISLATIVE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Greetings MPA members, with Thanksgiving in the rearview mirror and Christmas just around the corner, we will be deep in the 2011 Montana Legislative Session before you know it. I would like to share with you how MPA will conduct member communications during the session. This is an important message, so please take some time and consider how this may affect your operations.

### Weekly Highlights

MPA will have a formal communication process to members every week from the beginning of the session through the final days. We will use the "Heard it Through the Pipeline" format to convey to you the current highlights that occurred in the immediate week past and the schedule for the coming week. Every Monday morning you will get an email copy of the Heard It Through The Pipeline that will give a brief summary of committee hearings or other important actions on bills, and it will follow with the schedule for the coming week. This is MPA's primary communication tool. These weekly briefings will be archived in the member's only section of our website. This section is password protected, so if you do not have a user name and password please contact [bobbie@montanapetroleum.org](mailto:bobbie@montanapetroleum.org). Also, we will archive this report in the same place, please double check your password to make sure everything is operating correctly.

### Status Sheet

The MPA status sheet is an Excel spreadsheet that lists the bills that we are tracking. It is a great way to see what we are looking at and to track all actions on the bills. A copy of the status sheet will be attached to the email every Monday morning. In addition, Bobbie updates this sheet every morning and the current status sheet is also located in the pass word protected section of our website: [www.montanapetroleum.org](http://www.montanapetroleum.org).

### Member Alerts

In rare occasions on critical bills, MPA may request members to send a short email to, or call, certain members of the legislature. In the event we do a member alert it is important enough for members to take a minute and send an email. MPA will provide all the contact information, bullet points and perhaps a sample letter. While it is good for all members to engage, it is especially critical for Montana based members to engage, or remind the legislators that you have operations in Montana and have employees. MPA does not ask for this kind of member involvement on normal bills, when we do ask it is important and we need your help. Such email will be marked high priority.

### HELP Requests

Often a bill is introduced that we feel may impact our industry but we are not sure. You may receive a member wide email asking that you review a bill and get back to us with our comments (positive or negative). Time is crucial, and during certain times during a session we may only have 24 hours to

gather information. MPA will make every effort to give our time lines on these notices, but prompt response is always the best.

### **Legislative Website**

The Montana legislature manages a most useful website for the public. You can access any bill and follow action yourselves. The site is set up to allow you to develop your own preference lists to watch bills of concern to you. The site is [http://laws.leg.mt.gov/laws11/law0203w\\$.startup](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/laws11/law0203w$.startup) . Seriously, this site is most useful and one we use every day. If you have a keen interest in the session please take a few minutes and familiarize yourself with its functionality. Either Bobbie or I are willing to help you if you would like, but please make those requests prior to the beginning of the session.

### **Testimony**

Occasionally, MPA will ask if there are members willing to come to Helena and testify on bills or meet with Legislators. Your contact with legislators means much, much more to them than contact from professional lobbyists. Having the opportunity to share your first hand information is priceless. MPA understands the cost of you coming to Helena and the impact on your business of your lost time. MPA asks for this type of support rarely, however if you are in Helena and inclined to visit with some legislators, please contact [dave@montanapetroleum.org](mailto:dave@montanapetroleum.org) and have him help set meetings up. In all cases, MPA will make every effort to give you as much lead time as possible.

### **Oily Lunch**

Every Wednesday at noon, the oil and gas lobby group meets at Jorgensen's. Members are always welcome. The purpose of this meeting is to review the next 6 legislative days and make sure we have testimony, hearings and meetings all covered. It is also a time for active industry lobbyists to check to make sure we have not missed a bill. If you would like to attend please let [bobbie@montanapetroleum.org](mailto:bobbie@montanapetroleum.org) know that you would like to attend. It helps MPA make sure we have enough copies for those in attendance, and it helps the staff at Jorgensen's get our lunch served promptly. It is impossible to provide teleconference to these meetings.

### **MPA Involvement**

Decisions on legislative policy are made by the MPA Operating committee. The Operating Committee meets by teleconference every Wednesday after the lunch meeting. Bills are analyzed by MPA staff and the MPA Legislative Committee that is comprised of the members who are working the session. MPA will hold a variety of committee meetings on bills as issues arise, notice will be short. We use this format to involve as many members as possible to make sure we take the correct and appropriate action. If you have a particular question or are watching a bill that we do not have on the MPA status sheet and think we should, don't hesitate to call.

## **MPA 2011 LEGISLATORS' BRUNCH**

The MPA 2011 Legislators' Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am – 1:00pm at The Montana Club in Helena, MT. There is an MPA Board of Directors' meeting prior to the Brunch at the Holiday Inn Downtown in the Elkhorn B room at 7:30am, so please make sure it is marked on your calendars. We have sent a sponsorship form to each member company last week. For inclusion on the sponsorship recognition poster, please contact Bobbie at the MPA office (406/442-7582 or e-mail: [bobbie@montanapetroleum.org](mailto:bobbie@montanapetroleum.org)) to let her know your company will be sponsoring by Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Your continued support is vital for a positive event. We hope that your calendar allows your attendance. MPA has some sleeping rooms blocked at the Holiday Inn Downtown (one block from the

Montana Club, 27 N. Last Chance Gulch). Please call (877) 774-3536 or (406) 443-2200 and ask for the Montana Petroleum Association room block for the room rate of \$95.00 + tax. The rooms will be released on January 14<sup>th</sup>, so please make your reservations before then. The sleeping rooms have all been remodeled and are very nice.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **PUBLIC LANDS FOR PUBLIC USE**

You may have noticed that we have sent out newsletters with a Public Lands for Public Use (PLPU) banner. PLPU was formed by MPA and organized all the natural resource based and agricultural trade associations in Montana to focus on federal lands use policy. MPA and PLPU will be supporting a resolution this session that seeks Congressional oversight on current practices at the Department of Interior and seeks to stop removal of federal lands from the ability to be leased for oil and gas development. When you see PLPU news, please take a minute and read the material....it's from the good guys! The resolution will be available in bill format on the Legislative website soon. In the meantime, it can be viewed here: <http://www.montanapetroleum.org/assets/BLM-Resolution-Final.pdf>

By the way, the sponsor of our resolution is Senator Alan Olson. Besides being a pro-business legislator, he is an MPA member employed by Sanjel. Senator Olson has been great to work with on this resolution process. If you don't mind please take a minute and send him a quick thank you. Alan can be reached at: [aolson@sanjel.com](mailto:aolson@sanjel.com)

### **MPA VEHICLE**

MPA is in the process of offering the MPA corporate vehicle for sale. Information about our 2005 Dodge Durango can be found on <http://www.montanapetroleum.org/news>. If you are interested in a vehicle that has been taken care of and seen only highway miles, please take a look and contact either Dave or Bobbie with questions.

### **2011 MPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PACKETS**

The 2011 MPA membership renewal packets were mailed before Thanksgiving so you should have them. MPA appreciates the support you have shown in the past and hopes that you continue to be a member next year. If there is anything we can do for you, or if your packet did not arrive please contact either Dave or Bobbie at [mpa@montanapetroleum.org](mailto:mpa@montanapetroleum.org) or call 406-442-7582.

### **THANK YOU TO 2011 NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (11/24/10 – 12/7/10):**

#### **Companies:**

Bear Paw Energy LLC; Great Falls Development Authority; Hancock Enterprises; Holcim (US) Inc.; Holland & Hart LLP; Hydrometrics, Inc.; HydroSolutions, Inc.; Kootenai Resource Corp.; Montana & Wyoming Oil Company; O'Toole Law Firm; O'Tolle Oil Inc.; Quicksilver Resources, Inc.; Retamco Operating Inc.; Sanjel USA Inc.; Spence Accounts Inc.; T-K Production Company; Whiting Petroleum Corporation; WWC Engineering

#### **Individuals:**

Ed Bartlett; Carl Cheetham; Thomas Ebzery; Jon Englert; Bill Galt; Patrick Navratil; Robert Schalla; Joy Stevens; William War; Gary Willis

