

2005 Montana Legislature



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

INTRODUCED BY CLARK, ANDERSEN, BERGREN, R. BROWN, CAMPBELL, COHENOUR, CURTISS, EATON, ELLINGSON, ELLIOTT, FACEY, GALLIK, GOLIE, GUTSCHE, HARRINGTON, HARRIS, HEINERT, HENDRICK, JOPEK, KITZENBERG, LINDEEN, MANGAN, MCGEE, MCKENNEY, MOSS, PERRY, RASER, RICE, ROUSH, SALES, SHOCKLEY, SINRUD, SMITH, TESTER, TROPILA, VILLA, WANZENRIED, WELLS, WHEAT, WILLIAMS, WINDHAM, WINDY BOY

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REPEAL THE FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT.

WHEREAS, H.R. 3283, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, allows the federal land management agencies to charge access fees for recreational use of federally managed public lands by the general public; and

WHEREAS, Montana recently made access to its state parks and stream access locations easier for Montanans; and

WHEREAS, Montana's culture, quality of life, and traditions demand free access to public lands; and

WHEREAS, fees for access to public lands discriminate economically against those least able to pay the fees, especially citizens in low-income states, including Montana; and

WHEREAS, these public lands access fees have been highly controversial and are opposed by hundreds of organizations and county governments, by state legislatures, including the Montana Legislature, and by millions of rural Americans; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3283 is substantive legislation, including criminal penalties, that fundamentally changes the way America's public lands are funded and managed; and

WHEREAS, federal policies regarding management of public lands have a profound impact on the well-being of the citizens of Montana and changes to them should be conducted in an open public forum; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3283 was never approved by the U.S. House of Representatives and was never introduced, never had hearings, and was never approved by the U.S. Senate but was instead attached to an omnibus spending bill as an appropriations rider.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That the Montana Legislature demands that H.R. 3283 be repealed by the United States Congress.

(2) That copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Montana, Brian Schweitzer, to the President of the United States, to the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the majority and minority leadership of the United States Senate, to United States Senators Max Baucus, Conrad Burns, and Craig Thomas, to United States Representatives Denny Rehberg and Ralph Regula, and to the presiding officer of the Public Lands Committee in the United States House of Representatives.

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