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TSRIA NEWS

January 2015

2015 TSRIA Legislative Reception & Showcase

The 2015 TSRIA Legislative Reception and Showcase of Montana's Natural Resource Industries will be held Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel. This event promises to be one of the biggest events of the 2015 Legislative Session with booths featuring Montana natural resource industries, great food, cocktails and the chance to visit with legislators and public officials. Sponsors include: Barrick Golden Sunlight Mine; BNSF Railway; Calumet Montana Refining; MDU Resources; Montana Snowmobile Association; Stillwater Mining Company; American Chemistry Council; ExxonMobil; Great Northern Project Development; Holcim Trident Plant; Montana Coal Council; Montana Contractors Association; Montana Mining Association; Montana Petroleum Association; Montana Resources LLP; Montana Rural Electric Cooperatives; NorthWestern Energy; PPL Montana; Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry & Hoven; CDM Smith; Denbury Resources; Gaelectric; Puget Sound Energy; ABS Legal; IBEW Local 400; Melissa Lewis & Associates; Montana Agricultural Business Association; Montana Association of Realtors; Montana Independent Bankers; Montana Logging Association; Montana Water Resources Association; and Oversight Resources.

Exhibitors include: Barrick Golden Sunlight Mine; Bison Engineering; Calumet Montana Refining; CDM Smith; Cloud Peak Energy; FH Stoltze Land and Lumber Company; Holcim Trident Plant; Montana Coal Council; Montana Contractors Association; Montana Farm Bureau Federation; Montana Grain Growers Association; Montana Petroleum Association; Montana Snowmobile Association; Montana University System; Plum Creek; REAL Montana; Citizens for Balanced Use; Montana Agricultural Business Association; Montanans for Responsible Energy Development; Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association; Montana Stockgrowers Association; Montana Water Resources Association; Montana Wood Products Association; and Tintina Resources.

Tickets are available at the door for \$50.

2015 Montana Legislative Session

Montana House Speaker Austin Knudsen (R-Culbertson) recently outlined his party's legislative priorities to the editorial board of *The Missoulian*. Knudsen listed eastern Montana infrastructure impacts, funding charter schools, and tax relief as top priorities and indicated the Legislature will be working from an expected budget surplus of over \$350 million. The Speaker also outlined the party's goal for "long-term economic gain," including plans to "expand resource extraction across the state."

Governor Steve Bullock’s proposed budget also includes over \$307 million to address statewide infrastructure issues, including \$45 for eastern Montana. The Legislature will be looking to increase the amount designated for eastern Montana impacts associated with oil and gas activities in that part of the state.

Sage Grouse/Air Permitting/Tax Bills Top TSRIA List

TSRIA is reviewing dozens of bill drafts with potential impacts to its members, and several have already emerged as priorities, including: sage grouse habitat conservation, air permitting and tax relief.

Senator Hamlett (D-Cascade) drafted a bill on behalf of Governor Bullock to use \$10 million in general funds to create the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Stewardship Program. The bill aims to help the state assemble a plan that would conserve sage grouse, avoid a federal endangered species listing, and maintain economic opportunity in sage grouse country for oil and gas development, coal mining and agriculture.

Senator Duane Ankney (R-Colstrip) is carrying a bill on behalf of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to provide greater flexibility in the way air quality permit fees are assessed.

TSRIA will also be engaging on several tax bills important to Montana’s resource industries, including a provision to reduce the rate assessed on pollution control equipment.

Upcoming Events

January 5 2015 MT Legislative Session Begins Helena	January 25 MT Petroleum Association Legislative Brunch Helena
January 5 MT Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Day Helena	January 28-30 MABA/MGEA Annual Convention Heritage Inn, Great Falls
January 6 TSRIA Legislative Showcase & Reception Red Lion Colonial Hotel Helena	