

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

May 22, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

The individual provisions of House Bill 868 are either unnecessary or void for the following reasons:

First, Section 1 of House Bill 868 is a nominal and unnecessary transfer of \$100 to the Natural Resources Operations State Special Revenue Account from the State Treasurer.

Second, Section 2 requires certain personnel of related entities to present reports regarding the operations of the Petroleum Release Compensation Board to the Natural Resources and Transportation Budget Committee during the 2023-2024 Legislative Interim. Since interim committees have the authority to call witnesses and request information without a specific statutory authorization, this requirement is redundant and unneeded.

Third, Section 3 requires the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) to provide a report describing all initiated, but not completed, projects from 2015 to the present. FWP stands ready to provide such information without this statutory requirement, rendering this requirement unnecessary in statute.

Finally, Sections 4, 5, and 6 are void because Senate Bill 442 was not enacted into law. As these sections were conditional on the passage of that bill, these provisions would not have the effect of law even if signed.

For these reasons, and 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 868: "AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2; ESTABLISHING REPORTING

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REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR REPORTING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS; PROVIDING COORDINATION LANGUAGE; PROVIDING FOR A TRANSFER OF FUNDS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Gianforte", is written over a printed name and title. The signature is stylized with a large "G" and "J".

Greg Gianforte
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Legislative Services Division
Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State