

CITY OF BOZEMAN TESTIMONY
Fontenot
House Local Government Committee
01-24-2023

Good Afternoon, Chair Brewster and Local Government Committee Members, My name is **Brit Fontenot (F-O-N-T-E-N-O-T)**, City of Bozeman's Economic Development Director.

Thank you for the opportunity today to testify in **OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 241** on behalf of the City of Bozeman.

Restricting the ability of local governments to require buildings to be solar and EV ready will harm the state's ability to attract the most innovative companies with good paying jobs to our state.

Many global companies would like to locate to Montana due to the business-friendly tax and regulatory climate as well as employees that have that Montana work ethic we all talk about.

However, many of these companies also want buildings that are EV and Solar Ready because purchasing a building EV and Solar ready is much cheaper than retrofitting the building later on. Further, using Solar can allow companies to save money on their energy costs in the long run and as more and more employees purchase electric vehicles, charging infrastructure becomes a recruitment tool for top talent.

Companies are not choosing buildings with renewable energy options to virtue signal, but rather are choosing building with renewable energy options because it makes financial sense.

Imagine the State telling the local governments that they could not require developers to install internet infrastructure in the late 1990's or phone infrastructure in the 1950's. It would have stifled innovation, slowed economic growth, and forced Montana's young people to look elsewhere for employment.

Good economic development requires investing in the infrastructure to support the jobs of the future. Buildings—commercial and otherwise—ready to support our 21st century energy and infrastructure needs will make it easier for Montanans to start companies here and for communities to attract investment from outside the state to grow our economy.

Thank you Chair Brewster and members of the Local Government Committee for hearing my testimony **OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 241** today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

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Please insert any questions you would like Members of the Committee to ask below here. These questions should provide opportunity for you to expand on your original testimony or make additional points.

1. How much does a typical municipal election cost?

2. What is the difference in voter turnout for a May special election from a November general election?
3. What do current municipal elections look like now?