

**CITY OF BOZEMAN TESTIMONY**  
**Mihelich**  
**Senate Taxation Committee**  
**03-30-2023**

**Good Morning**, Chair Hertz and Taxation Committee Members, My name is **Jeff**

**Mihelich (M-I-H-E-L-I-C-H)**, I am the City Manager of the City of Bozeman. Thank you for the opportunity today to testify in **SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 551** on behalf of the City of Bozeman.

*Local Governments in the State of Montana are primarily supported by property taxes.*

*Those property taxes are borne by long time Montana residents, first time homebuyers with small children, and by those that make our communities thrive—small business owners, firefighters, and construction workers.*

*As we have heard time and again this legislature, we need property tax relief. This legislation does that. This bill puts the power in the hands of citizens on whether or not to create a new tax system which collects money from tourists who use our infrastructure and services without paying any of their fair share.*

*Citizens, not legislators or Commissioners, will decide whether or not to authorize a new tax. Citizens will approve the desired use of these funds. Citizens in the cities that approve this tax will decide what long-term infrastructure, capital, or affordable housings projects they want to support. Citizens will determine the level of property tax relief provided under this ballot initiative. In Bozeman, we trust Montanans to make*

*decisions about what is the best path forward for their community. We hope the legislature will too.*

Thank you Chair Hertz and members of the Senate Taxation Committee for hearing my testimony **SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 511** today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.