



JOHN ENGEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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April 21, 2014

Sen. Christine Kaufmann
c/o Megan Moore
Interim Committee on Revenue and Transportation
Montana Senate
P.O. Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Senator Kaufmann and Members of the Committee:

During your last meeting, there was considerable discussion around Missoula's permitting fees for oversize loads moving through the city and the legality of the city imposing those fees. We sent Don Verrue, our assistant director of Development Services, to provide information to the committee on our process and fees. We didn't realize the committee was interested in a discussion of Missoula's policies and philosophies around these issues and would have likely sent a policy-maker to address those issues.

My cursory review of the committee discussion that day suggests there are two questions I may be able to address on behalf of the city of Missoula.

First, is the city within its rights to impose regulations and fees for oversize loads moving through the city? According to statute and ordinance, yes.

Second, is the City of Missoula using these regulations and fees to discourage "big rigs" from moving through the city? No. We charge fees to recover the costs we incur in accommodating any oversize load so that Missoula's citizens don't bear the brunt of those costs. This year, the city's oversize load permit fee is \$206 per load, with an additional \$103 if the load is overweight.

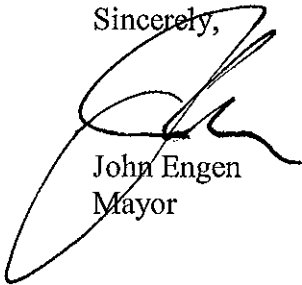
The following table is a record of fees collected since fiscal year 2010 for oversize loads and local moving permits. The permit-fee column is the total yearly charge for the number of loads.

Calendar Year	Mega Loads/Oversize		Local Moving		Total For Year
	Permits	Permit Fee	Permits	Permit Fee	
2014	4	\$ 1,236.00	0	\$ -	\$ 1,236.00
2013	12	\$ 3,300.00	3	\$ 800.00	\$ 4,100.00
2012	5	\$ 1,300.00	12	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,800.00
2011	17	\$ 3,500.00	2	\$ 400.00	\$ 3,900.00
2010	2	\$ 333.50	0	\$ -	\$ 333.50

Please note we set fees to recover costs so as not to burden local property-tax payers, much in the way we recover costs for building permits, subdivision review, zoning applications and more. These costs are comparable for megaloads and local moving permits and therefore, so are the fees as the table shows. We don't discriminate against megaloads in setting fees. As I suggested to a reporter who asked if the city charges a fee so big rigs would be discouraged from moving through Missoula, our fees are nominal and if \$206 is a deal-breaker, the folks trying to move these loads have far greater challenges than the City of Missoula's permits.

Please let me know if I may answer any other questions. In the meantime, thank you for your service to the citizens of Montana, particularly those constituents in Missoula we serve together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Engen', is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

John Engen
Mayor