



PO BOX 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
(406) 444-3064  
FAX (406) 444-3036

## Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

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### 64rd Montana Legislature

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NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

May 22, 2015

To: Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC) members  
From: Sonja Nowakowski, ETIC staff  
Re: Universal System Benefits (USB) program

Attached are copies of the 2014 USB program reports submitted by Montana-Dakota Utilities, the Montana Electric Cooperative's' Association, and by NorthWestern Energy. The Department of Revenue also received 52 reports from large customers who self-directed funds. The large customer reports will be summarized by staff during the June 5 meeting.

Title 69-8-402, MCA requires the ETIC to "review the universal system benefits programs, and, if necessary, submit recommendations regarding these programs." Public utilities and cooperative utilities are required to submit an annual summary report of universal system benefits programs to the ETIC for review.

During the June 5 meeting, ETIC members will be introduced to the USB program and receive a brief overview of the program. The ETIC in 2016 will again review USB reports, delve into the details of USB and 2015 changes in the law, and further discuss potential recommendations concerning the USB program.

Sonja Nowakowski  
Research Analyst  
Montana Legislative Services Division  
Phone: (406) 444-3078  
Fax: (406) 444-3971  
Email: [snowakowski@mt.gov](mailto:snowakowski@mt.gov)

CI0140 5131slxb.