



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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April 30, 2008

TO: Members, Environmental Quality Council

FR: David E. Wanzenried, Chair

RE: Climate change recommendations – processing and providing direction to staff

As we agreed at our meeting in March, on May 12, 2008, the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) will review, discuss and then decide which of the fifteen recommendations warrant further staff time to prepare legislation.

In order for the EQC to efficiently process its work on May 12 (additional time on May 13 is also allotted, if necessary), each member must come to the meeting prepared with a set of priorities for all of the recommendations, as well as priorities within each recommendation.

At you earliest convenience, please log onto the EQC website:

<http://leg.mt.gov/css/lepo/default.asp>

Then, click on the 2007-2008 under the interim study heading and familiarize yourselves with the narrative for each of the 15 recommendations. As you will see, there are a large number of options for each recommendation.

For example, in the section titled “Potential Action” under Recommendation AFW11 (Programs to Promote Local Food and Fiber), there are more than a dozen courses of potential action, plus options for ‘no action’ and ‘administrative options,’ which require no legislative action.

According to staff, the EQC has never recommended more than 12 pieces of legislation total for any legislative session. While we can make exceptions to that general total, we obviously cannot proceed with each potential action.

My interest is for the EQC to find a balance between trying to do too much and doing nothing at all. Your assistance in this regard by coming to the meeting fully-prepared to discuss your priorities will make the best use of our time at the meeting and that of the staff after the EQC has provided direction.

For those of you who may be interested in proposing the addition of one or more of the remaining 39 recommendations included in the Governor's Climate Change Advisory Council for further staff work, please bear in mind that the purpose of the survey and the work at our last meeting was to narrow the field of vision. As the EQC moves forward in an effort to prepare its legislative package in a timely manner, EQC members are obviously free to pursue the preparation of legislation independently.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact me.

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