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Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee
62nd Montana Legislature

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July 29, 2011

TO: One-call stakeholders
FR: Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC)
RE: Revising Montana's one-call law

Greetings,

On behalf of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee I am writing to encourage the entities who have an interest in Montana's one-call law (Title 69, chapter 4, part 5) to work together to suggest revisions to the existing law, if necessary, to ensure it complies with federal requirements.

The ETIC met in Helena on July 15 and outlined a study plan for the coming year. The ETIC, a bipartisan committee representing the Montana Senate and House of Representatives, agreed that a discussion of Montana's one-call laws is needed. At its July meeting, the ETIC learned that Montana's one-call laws have been the subject of review by stakeholders for the last few years. It is the ETIC's understanding that to-date stakeholders have not been able to reach a consensus on the best course of action to bring Montana's one-call laws into compliance.

ETIC members will discuss the need for change in Montana's current law. The committee will be provided with background reports, prepared by staff, at September and November meetings. Members also plan to invite representatives of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Montana Public Service Commission, and Montana's One-Call Center to provide an overview of the issues. Public comment also will be accepted during those meetings.

The ETIC requests that stakeholders submit a written report to the committee by its **January 13, 2012** meeting. The committee is seeking specific solutions to bring Montana's one-call laws into compliance with federal requirements. Solutions should include potential draft legislation for the ETIC's review. If stakeholders are unable to reach a consensus, the committee requests a detailed, written account of areas where there is not agreement. The committee is relying on you, the stakeholders and entities most affected, to develop a sound solution and to ensure that Montana's one-call law is in compliance with federal requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan Olson".

ETIC Chairman Alan Olson