

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17
INTRODUCED BY G. PERRY, ZINKE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC VALUE OF HORSE ACTIVITIES TO THE STATE OF MONTANA.

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WHEREAS, the horse is widely recognized as a vital part of the history and culture of the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, members of our Indian tribes maintain spiritual, traditional, and cultural relationships with horses; and

WHEREAS, horses support the unique Montana way of life, providing recreational opportunity, economic viability, and support for our farms and ranches; and

WHEREAS, much of the State of Montana was settled, cleared, and farmed with the use of the horse; and

WHEREAS, historically, equestrians and horse-drawn vehicles have used previously uncongested streets and the network of unpaved rural roads for transportation and recreation; and

WHEREAS, as communities grow, it is becoming increasingly difficult and unsafe to use these roads for equine activities; and

WHEREAS, the horse was our first form of transportation in the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, the horse, perhaps more than any other animal or symbol, represents the American West and the legacy of the pioneer spirit of the United States of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That the Senate and the House of Representatives request that city, county, and state officials:

(a) promote safe equestrian and horse-drawn vehicle access; and

(b) include horse uses when appropriate when designing or improving roadways in transportation planning or when planning or implementing parks and trails.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Montana Department of Transportation for its consideration and to the Montana League of Cities and Towns and the Montana Association of Counties for distribution to their members.