



SIERRA CLUB

MONTANA CHAPTER

Fight Climate Change in Montana by Opposing SB 257

SB 257 would prohibit local governments from pursuing policies that limit carbon

OPPOSE SB 257 (Senator Jason Small)

- SB 257 prohibits local governments from developing any sort of regulation on carbon, which could significantly curtail local efforts to move to 100% clean electricity and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions on the local level.
- Although the bill sponsor claims that this bill is narrowly intended to prevent local governments from passing carbon taxes or fees, the bill language is much broader than that, specifically stating that the penalties it prohibits include **any ordinance or policy based on carbon**.
- SB 257 would change state law to include this language: “[a] local government may not enact, adopt, implement, enforce, or refer to the electorate a rule, order, ordinance, or policy that includes fees, taxation, or penalties based on carbon or carbon use.” This would include **“informal rules, orders, ordinances, or policies, including but not limited to: charges placed on resident or business electrical, natural gas, propane, or other energy bills or statements based on usage or carbon content; or...any other method, tax, or fee levied on the carbon content of fuels or electricity in the transportation or energy sector.”**
- This bill could interfere with many aspects of local climate plans, like efforts to power city buses with electricity, green building design standards, etc.
- In Montana, local governments and tribes have taken the lead in planning for and taking action to address climate change. Three of our cities have commitments to reaching 100% clean electricity by 2030, and seven cities have approved local climate action plans (along with the [climate resiliency and adaptation plans passed by multiple tribal nations and cities](#)). Local action is a crucial piece of the puzzle in building statewide power and fighting the climate crisis in Montana.

See the [current bill text](#) to learn more & check out our [citizen lobbying resources](#) to get involved.

Make sure to call your state representative and ask them to oppose this broad attempt to strip local control in Montana.

Contact caitlin.piserchia@sierraclub.org to learn more about our legislative work this session.