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Subject: Lobbyist paper Danny Donahue

Lobbyist Danny Donahue
Park High School

Concerned Citizens against use of cell phones while driving in Montana

I represent concerned citizens who are against the use of cell phones while driving. We feel that prohibiting their use under these circumstances would greatly benefit Montana as a whole. Offenders would be charged with a fine that would vary in severity depending on the circumstances and the number of offenses. Exceptions would be made for situations involving an emergency where cell phone usage while driving is needed.

A large number of car accidents occur every day as a result in part or in whole of cell phone use while driving. Talking on the cell phone poses a serious distraction to driving and therefore put the driver and others in potentially dangerous situations. Taking away this distraction would make for much safer driving and would greatly decrease the amount of accidents on Montana's roadways.

An offender of this proposed law cannot however be pulled over just for this offense. They may be charged only after being pulled over first for another reason. I am not at this point specifying the severity of the charge, as I feel that it would be best to first start with just getting the concept passed. As far as rules regarding this new proposed law, I would also like to point out that a passenger using a cell phone is comfortably within the confines of the law. The driver is the only person exempt from using a cell phone as it creates too great of risk. Taking this potential for accidents away will make Montana roads much safer to use.

I will support legislation that works to oppose the use of cell phones while driving.

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