



CITY OF MONTROSE

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February 16, 2016

*VIA EMAIL*

Mr. Kevin Bommer, Deputy Director  
Colorado Municipal League  
1144 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Bommer,

Thank you very much for taking the time to hear the concerns of many local governments here in Colorado related to the issue of "Fiscal Fair Play." In order to serve our residents and taxpayers in the most effective and professional manner, there must be mutual trust and respect between City and County governments.

Unfortunately, that necessary level of professionalism and community-minded spirit is sometimes lacking among some entities for a variety of reasons. In Montrose, we have experienced this first hand over the past few years with our own county making decisions that negatively affect our municipal residents and taxpayers without any consultation or even advance notice. In 2012 our county government simply eliminated the Road & Bridge mill levy of which they had been sharing with us the statutorily required 50% every year. We received no notice that this change was coming and we were just left on our own to cut our municipal budget to make up for this revenue shortfall. Over the past few years this shortfall has equated to approximately \$60,000 in lost revenue for the City of Montrose residents. The county still maintains a several million dollar annual Road & Bridge Sales Tax that our taxpayers pay every time they shop in Montrose, but the county does not share any of that money with the City of Montrose and does not spend any of that money within the Montrose city limits. I know that this amount of money might seem trivial on its surface, but it has been difficult for us to make up for that loss. I have heard the numbers are much larger in other cities across the state.

Please fight for us and ask the legislature to hold our neighboring jurisdictions accountable for their actions, especially when we share the same taxpayers. At the end of the day, it is the Colorado people who are suffering from these misguided antics.

Sincerely,

William E. Bell  
City Manager

David Romero  
Mayor

WEB:clb

cc: Sam Mamet