EXHIBIT 12
DATE 2/8/05
HB 484

Dear House Agriculture Committee,

My name is Brad Radtke, my address is 426 Cow Creek Road, Dummond, MT. I am 30 years old and a third generation rancher in this valley as my brother and I took over the management and operation of our family ranch in 2003.

I ask the House Agriculture Committee to vote **YES** on HB 484. I believe it will offer many opportunities to young ag producers like myself who have the desire to direct market beef or other livestock and keep more of the dollars for their product in the producers pocket.

The main benefit to producers of a mobile slaughter unit will not only be logistics but also enable ranchers to harvest a better product. A mobile slaughter unit will reduce stress and shrink on animals and therefore increase tenderness and palatability over having to ship the livestock to a standard slaughter facility.

The passage of HB 484 will help to keep young people in agriculture and make it more profitable. Please vote **YES** on HB 484.

Thank you, Brad Radtke