

EXHIBIT 13  
DATE 2/8/05  
HB 484

Dear House Agriculture Committee:

Please vote YES on HB 484.

As an agricultural producer, and distributor of beef, pork, lamb, bison, and poultry, I assure you that providing authority for State Meat Inspection of mobile slaughtering units will be of great benefit to many of Montana's farmers and ranchers, and a boost to Montana's agricultural economy.

Many Montana livestock producers lack reasonable access to state or USDA inspected slaughter facilities which limits their marketing opportunities. This is especially true for poultry. Despite growing demand for high quality, Montana-grown meats (especially, but not limited to organic meats), many of our livestock producers cannot sell their products directly into wholesale or retail markets unless their meat is slaughtered at an inspected facility.

Montana law does not give the State authority to inspect mobile slaughter units presently. The proposed legislation (HB484) will give explicit authority to the Montana Department of Livestock to inspect mobile slaughter units.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 484 which will allow small, remote farms and ranches a means to sell their products locally, and help them stay on the farm.

Sincerely,

Karalee Bancroft  
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