

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3/29/05
HB 766

ARTEMIS COMMON GROUND

March 25, 2005

RE: HB 766

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

I am Brian Kahn, director of Artemis Common Ground, of Helena, Montana.

I regret I cannot attend in person today, and am grateful for the opportunity to offer these comments:

Artemis provides support for community-based efforts that simultaneously strengthen our natural resource economy and improve the conservation of our natural environment. In our view, the future economic and social health of the Montana community depends on strengthening this "common ground".

We do a good deal of work with ranchers, public resource agencies, and conservation organizations. All these interests, as well as the broad Montana community, have a fundamental interest in increasing the effectiveness of our joint battle against noxious weeds—which pose a threat to both the livestock industry and wildlife habitat.

I serve as an advisor to the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group, whose highly creative weed control work has united the Valley community in a pro-active effort, and received statewide recognition. Given all that needs to be done to combat noxious weeds, we simply cannot afford to have Montana's school trust lands be a source of spreading infestation. HB 766 will address this vital and long-overlooked issue, and in addition generate badly needed funds to enhance county and local efforts.

I urge your support.

With best wishes,



Brian Kahn
Director

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