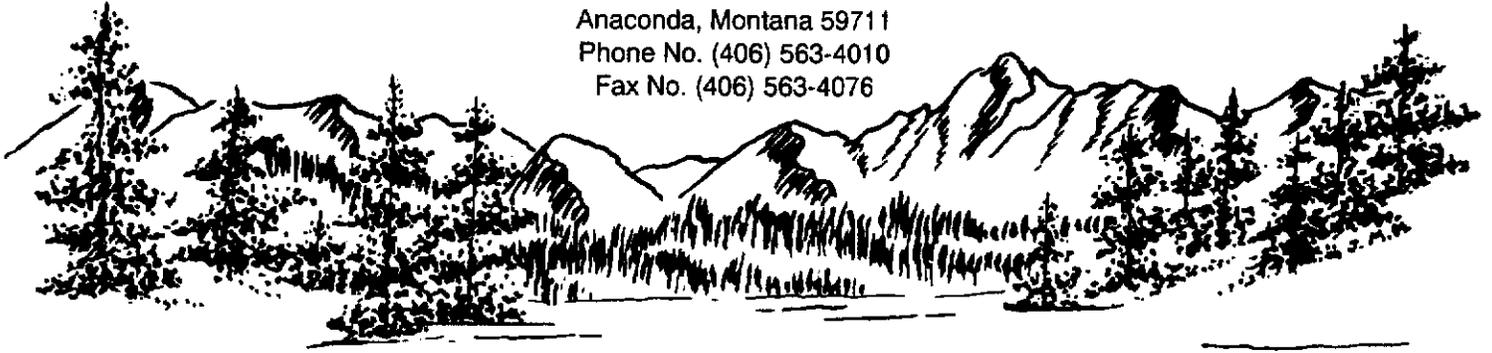


ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

800 South Main  
Anaconda, Montana 59711  
Phone No. (406) 563-4010  
Fax No. (406) 563-4076

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 1/24/05  
HB 201



January 21, 2005

House of Appropriations Committee  
Rosie Buzzas, Madame Chairman  
Montana House of Representatives  
Capital Building  
Helena, MT 59602

Dear Representatives,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support of House Bill No. 201 extending the 2003 appropriation of money from the Coal Severance Tax Permanent Fund to the Department of Justice for Natural Resource Damage services.

With the smelting history of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County we are now faced with reduction of natural resources available for present and future use. Natural resources which have been effected by smelting activities within Anaconda-Deer Lodge County include water, wildlife habitat areas, and bird and water fowl habitat among many others. Contamination has forced Anaconda-Deer Lodge County to consider alternative means of providing municipal services to ensure the protection of our community's health and safety.

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County has greatly benefitted from funding granted through the Natural Resource Damage Program. Anaconda-Deer Lodge County is limited in potential well field replacement areas with over 400,000 acre-feet of water lost to contamination and the land surrounding the city of Anaconda under well drilling restrictions. The Natural Resource Damage program has enabled Anaconda-Deer Lodge County to fulfill this need by providing grant funding in order to conserve limited resources.

In consideration of the benefits provided to citizens throughout Anaconda-Deer Lodge County and the entire Clark Fork area, I would like to encourage you to support and pass House Bill No. 201. Thank you for your time in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 563-4010.

Sincerely,

Linda Bouck  
Planning Director  
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County