EXHIBIT 14
DATE 3-15-05
HB 535

Madame Chairman, ~~Members of the Comm.~~
my name is Catherine F. & I am the Granddaughter of Ted & Luella Hawley who started our little company, Hawley-Desimon Inc. back in 1928. Our company supports 3 families & we are in danger of losing our business because of this tax that has been imposed on us on money that we don't make. The facts have been heard & you can see from the evidence that what we are saying is true.

Montana depends on our industry to help keep our communities alive & in helping our children be able to stay here & make a living.

When the price of oil was so low, we barely held on waiting for the day when the price would go up & we could take care of things to keep our company going that we weren't able to take care of during that time. Now, the money is being taken away from us again.

When the price was low, many other businesses were lost to Montana because we didn't use their services to maintain & improve our wells. More businesses lost & less income for our State.

I'd like to show you pictures of what our operation looks like. We take great measures to protect the environment & we work well with the farmers on the same land.

We now have only one place we can sell our oil. Montana Refining (who has bought our oil since the beginning) ironically dropped our Montana company to buy from Canada. We get less for our oil from Cenex now than we did before.

That, along with the higher price of steel etc. and this huge tax — our business is in serious danger.

If we are out of business. Montana will get Nothing in taxes from us. Wouldn't it be better to keep our business alive by allowing us to pay a fair and reasonable tax of .75% (where it normally is) than to have nothing at all from our small family business?

Thank you for considering this bill & we would appreciate your support.

— Catherine Fullerson