EXHIBIT 19
DATE 3-21-05
HB 540

Testimony for the Appropriations Committee
March 21, 2005
Room 102, State Capitol
by Betty L. Babcock

Honorable Chairman Buzzas, and Honorable members of the Appropriations Committee, for the record my name is Betty L. Babcock, former Legislator, Con-Con Delegate and a member of SAC, better known as the State Advisory Committee for the United States Civil Rights Commission.
I am also here as a Co-Chair along with Former Attorney General Joe Mazurek of the Steering Committee for the purchase of the Capital Hill Mall to replace the building now occupied by the MHS.

I know how very valuable your time is so I have prepared "Important Facts: and "Quick Quotes" to make the information you need readily available at your finger tips so you will be able to review it easily and then be able to vote on the proposition before you. Very favorably I hope.

Others too, I am sure, will be supplying you with some of this same information. In order to save time I will give you printed copies of this part of my testimony .

And now I would like to use the balance of my three minutes of time to tell you some things that I don't think you will here from anyone else. .
In our Constitution, Article X, Section 2 states: (the state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their **cultural integrity.** And of course it goes on further in section 3.

I believe it is important to all of us and especially to the Montana Indians that some of their wonderful treasurers can be appropriately displayed in the Museum. Thus preserving their their cultural integrity to some extent. I have other friends who have indicated to me that they too have many things that would be of value to the state but they want to be assured of a safe place and also of a place where they could be properly used and exhibited for fellow Montanans to see.

My husband Tim was made a member of the Fort Peck Indian tribe and was given the name Chief Flying Cloud. We have the beautiful Chief headdress that was given to him at that time, which should some day go to the MHS. He is one of the founders of the American Indian Institute which began with a group of Indian leaders from a denigrated race at the Missouri Headwaters in 1973 . I have made a copy of a letter from Bob Staffanson, to Tim , who is also one of original founders and is their executive director. He lives in Bozeman but is one of the directors of the Museum in Cody Wyoming, We attend the 25th Anniversary of the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders & Youth, August 2002 and there were 23 tribes represented and all seven tribes from Montana were in attendance. I brought a book for you to see of that event. It too, along with other things that we have, should sometime in the future go to the MHS. One is a vase from The Great Leader President Kim ll Sung from The People's Republic of North Korea, given to Tim when he was asked to go there. There is jade tree , one given to each Governor at a Conference in California from Governor Reagan. A soapstone Elephant on a crystal base from President Nixon brought back to Tim when Nixon went on his trip to China, A set of china from my grandmother who was from Edinburgh, Scotland and homesteaded at Burns Creek Montana. She later lived in Billings where she died at 106. Also a set of Moon Glow China given to me from Nancy Reagan.

I have been talking to several groups that I belong to about this proposal, and a friend in PEO, whose husband is a Doctor and a hunter asked me how they could

help. They have beautiful trophies from their many hunting trips and wonderful collections of art and other memorabilia. Trophies of many different animals. A huge bear in particular. I have seen them. They have all been beautifully created and carefully cared for. They are hoping for a place , like the "New Montana History Center" for these items to go when they plan their estate. She asked me how they could help to make it a reality. . Another friend pledge $2000.00 after I announced the possibility of a new History Center at a luncheon we were at. She and her husband also have volunteered to help. She is an artist and has set up her own Foundation . I tell you this, for it is important to point out, how **desperately** we need " the New Montana History Center".
Would we want all these things and more to go elsewhere t possibly to other states and be lost to the history of Montana.

The museum would provide the space and establish exhibits that exemplify the Indian culture, plus be able to display the many Indian artifacts that are now in storage. Please vote for the preservation of the Indian culture but also for the non-Indian culture as well.

Please vote yes and I thank you for your time and service to our State.