

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 3-29-05
HB 584

STAVES CONSULTING INC.

March 28, 2005

House Appropriations Committee

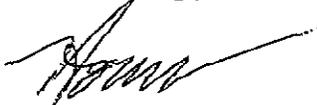
Re: HB 584 Film Bill

Dear Members,

As the President of the Campground Owners Association of Montana, I also serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Montana Tourism Coalition. I am submitting this letter in support of HB 584.

For many years I served as Vice President International for Kampgrounds of America, an international company with headquarters in Billings. Movies that were filmed in or near Montana were one of the better marketing tools we had when we promoted Montana tourism overseas. We used Dances with Wolves, A River Runs Through It, Horse Whisperer, and others to help sell the state. Now because of the fierce competition for movie locations we have lost that marketing tool. While I generally do not favor tax incentives for any specific business, I also recognize that you can't rent a motel room for \$100.00 if the competition next door offers the same room for \$50.00. In business you have no choice except to match the competition's offer and that is what HB 584 does. Please don't think of it as a subsidy to the film industry, think of it as a way to match the price offered by our competition.

Sincerely,



Homer A. Staves

3191 Parkhill
Billings MT 59102

Phone: (406) 656-7086
Fax: (406) 656-7086
Email: hstaves@stavesconsulting.com