



EXHIBIT 8
DATE 2-14-05
HB 578

Montana Dental Association

Constituent: AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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February 14, 2005

TO: House Education Committee

FR: Mary McCue
Executive Director
Montana Dental Association

RE: HB 578

● According to the America Dental Association, American consumption of soft drinks increased by 500% over the past 50 years. Americans drank more than 53 gallons of soft drinks per person in 2000, surpassing all other beverages including milk, beer, coffee, and water. One of every four beverages consumed in America today is a soft drink.

● The ADA and MDA do not oppose soft drinks. We oppose contractual arrangements in schools that promote increased access to soft drinks for children. This negatively influences consumption patterns. ADA and MDA oppose targeting children to promote foods and beverages that are low in nutritional value and high in cavity-causing carbohydrates.

● There are many factors that affect whether tooth decay forms. Our mouths are filled with bacteria, and when these bacteria come in contact with sugar, acid is produced that attacks teeth within 20 minutes. These acid attacks may eventually result in tooth decay. So we know that when teeth come in frequent contact with soft drinks and other sugar-containing substances, the risk of decay increases. Increased decay results in harm or loss of teeth and drives up the cost of dental care.

The mission of the Montana Dental Association is to represent the interests of the members of the dental profession and to promote the art and science of dentistry, so as to improve the health of Montanans.