EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3/23/05
SB 419

For the record, my name is Nick Mauri, and I am in eighth grade at Ophir School.

I know I'm going to go to Bozeman High, and I'm going to try make the best of it. But I can't say that I'm excited about spending most of my life for the next four years riding a bus or being in school.

I feel like I'm going to be in limbo. I can't be in Bozeman meeting and hanging out with new friends, and in my class all but two of my Big Sky friends are either moving to Bozeman, going to boarding school, or leaving the state entirely. I guess I'll be able to talk to them on the phone, but I don't see a lot of hope for hanging out after school like I do now. And I know I'm really going to miss the time I can now spend with my sisters and my mom and dad.

I thought maybe I'd be able to drive when I got old enough, but my mother says there's no way she'd let me drive through the canyon. All anyone talks about in Big Sky is how dangerous it is.

I'm also really bummed about sports. Even if I could go out for a team, I don't think I'd have a chance to really play. In my current school, everyone who wants to can participate. I've played soccer, basketball and track, and I was even in our school play. It's easy, because everyone knows everybody and there's always a spot for you to do what you want. Kids I know at Bozeman say it's much harder to get on teams there because the school is so big.

I wish my life could just continue on like it has been, but I know that won't happen for me. Even before now, I've lost friends in my class when their older brothers or sisters went to Bozeman and their family moved. I guess that's just the way it has to be right now in Big Sky. But I wish it could change for my little sisters.