EXHIBIT 5
DATE 2·14·05
HB HB 642

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Director Sp. Ed.
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February 11, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Great Falls Public School District, I am writing in support of HB 642, which would allow municipalities like the City of Great Falls to become default suppliers of electricity to the communities they serve. In recent years, we here at the Great Falls Public School District have experienced first-hand both the uncertainty and financial strain of a volatile electrical energy market.

In 2003, along with 59 other municipalities and school districts, we entered into an agreement with NorthWestern Energy to supply our electrical energy needs for a five-year period. Just one year after we signed the contract, the energy supplier defaulted on the agreement and we again faced unstable energy rates. In school districts where annual budgets dictate the number of available quality instructors and classroom materials, we count on reasonably priced, stable energy costs.

The City of Great Falls became our energy provider in October of 2004, and we are currently enjoying electrical energy rates that are below both the market and default prices. Stable, affordable energy rates from the City of Great Falls have benefited and will continue to benefit our schools, staff, and students. I urge you to support HB 642, which would allow Great Falls residents and businesses to enjoy the same affordable rates that we have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Dunn
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W. Bryan Dunn, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools