

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 2.16.05  
HB HJ 24

February 16, 2005

**Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee:**

I am grateful for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HJ 24, the resolution to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Montana. I applaud Mr. ~~Bob Bergren~~ for introducing this resolution to the Montana legislature.

I am an outdoor writer by profession, and much of my writing career depends on the opportunity to experience wild places and pursue adventure in much the same spirit as the Corps of Discovery. I have canoed the entire navigable length of the Yellowstone River and most of the Missouri River, along with thousands of miles of tributary streams named by Lewis and Clark. I write for many national publications, including Outside, Audubon, Men's Journal, High Country News, Canoe & Kayak, Backpacker, and others. I have also authored eight books on adventurous topics.

I consider it one of the treasures of being a resident in Montana to live in the shadow of Lewis and Clark. More than that, we Montanans are in the rare position of enjoying sections of the L & C route relatively unscathed. It is a legacy no other state or region can point to. Long segments of the Missouri, portions of the Yellowstone, along with many portions of tributary streams like the Smith, Judith, Shields, Marias, and others, remain hauntingly true to the journal descriptions penned two hundred years ago. We can camp in the same cottonwood groves, gaze at the same eroded cliffs, marvel at the same spacious horizons as the men of the Corps.

This landscape inspires me, as it does all Montanans, and as it did the Corps. It is my fervent hope that it will endure to inspire my children and grandchildren. I believe that Resolution HJ 24 is a measure that will help make the legacy of this epic expedition, the spirit of discovery, and the powerful quality of this special landscape endure for the future. It is a legacy worth striving for, and HJ 24 is legislation worth supporting. I urge all committee members to add their support to this measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan S. Kesselheim  
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