EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3-7-05
SB SB235

Testimony
On Senate Bill 235
Before the House Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee

By Gary Wiens
On behalf of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
March 7, 2005

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Gary Wiens, representing Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association.

We rise in support of SB 235. Much of the electricity Montana electric cooperatives receive crosses NorthWestern Energy transmission lines. It is important to us that upgrades to maintain adequate capacity and reliability be done promptly.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee and I will be available to respond to any questions you may have.