

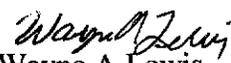
EXHIBIT 15  
DATE 3.14.05  
SB SJ19

I'm sure you are familiar with SJ 19 and the fact that it is not in opposition to the USA PATRIOT Act itself -- only to the sections that threaten our civil liberties. Also that its success in the Senate with a vote in third reading of 40-10 shows that it is not a partisan issue.

I'm sure you are familiar with the arguments in defense of the USA PATRIOT Act -- especially the one I have heard many times -- that the Act has never been use in a manner that had violated civil liberties. With the "gag order" provision in several sections, how would we know this for sure? In response to this one repeated argument, I would argue -- has the Act in its 3 ½ years ever been used to successfully arrest and convict a terrorist?

SJ 19 gives Montana's 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature the opportunity to let Montana shine before the whole country as a state whose residents, leaders and lawmakers hold civil liberties as one of our most valuable assets. Also, it is an opportunity to send a strong message to our federal government that we can retain our civil liberties and also be safe from terrorist threat

I urge you to recommend a do pass on SJ 19.

  
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