EXHIBIT 16
DATE 3-14-05
SB SJ19

Walter Knight
553 State St.
Helena

My own comments:

The so-called U.S. Patriot Act is Un American. The Act's sneak-and-peek provisions and broad definition of "terrorists" to include protest, and denial of civil rights & defaines are serious threats to the U.S. Constitution and our freedom.

Admittedly, the current U.S. foreign policy has increased the probability of terrorist acts; however, we should not sacrifice our precious freedoms to the generated fear.

We would urge the committee take a stand ~~responsibly~~ in support of this resolution. I believe that states have the responsibility to question and challenge this overzealous Patriot Act.

~~[illegible]~~

• Chairman Wheat, Committee members • my name • 107 Highland Katie Knight

The Patriot Act contains broad invasive powers that clearly violate the provisions and intention of the US constitution. In the wake of 9-11 This fear-based legislation was hurredly run through congress without adequate research or discussion or even reading of the bill. Now we are in a period of discussion on a nation-wide scale as states, counties & municipalities consider what we have been asked to ~~sacrifi~~ surrender (*) The Patriot Act is not required in order to investigate and prosecute ~~crim~~ terrorist cells or people engaged in criminal acts. Rather, it seeks to expand the powers of the National government, treating ~~peo~~ innocent people as criminals and violating their constitutional rights. This undermines the autonomy of states. ~~and~~ The Patriot Act represses discent and has a chilling impact on freedom of expression. The Patriot Act is anti-democratic. A Montana resolution could protect montanans from some of the worst threats contained in the Patriot Act. It would send a message to Washington that Montanans are not willing to surrender their constitutional rights. A Montana resolution against the patriot Act would strengthen democracy in our state and the nation.

(*) When the citizens of Helena ~~were~~ organized a town meeting to discuss a Patriot Act resolution, hundreds of citizens gathered at Carroll College for the most animated & well attended discussion I've ever seen here. Sentiment was 99% in favor of the resoution, ~~which~~ Commissioners & mayor passed...