EXHIBIT 19
DATE 4-11-05
SB SB415

GOOD INTENTIONS....AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES:

SB 415'S "MANDATE FOR RENEWABLES."

- **Is competitive renewable energy a good idea?** Yes. And it is coming to Montana without legal "mandates." Better technology and incentives (federal credits and states tax breaks) are already paving the way.

- **Why mandate the sale of more expensive electricity?**
  - If it didn't cost more, a mandate wouldn't be needed. Mandates mean higher-priced electricity.
  - Competitive projects don't need mandates and mandates for non-competitive projects penalize good projects.

- **Not made in Montana?** SB 415 allows "eligible renewable resources" to be purchased from out-of-state generation---and most likely will be. How does that build Montana's rural economy or create jobs?

- **More bureaucracy and more time in court...for what?**
  - More plans, more reports and more rate cases. Good for consultants and lawyers--but customers will foot the bill.
  - The PSC must go to court to enforce ever-changing "caps" and draconian penalties for mistakes. How will that work and what will it cost?

- **Don't sell to Montana?**
  - Competitive suppliers would be hit with extra accounting burdens, risk of penalties and higher prices to sell to Montana customers.
  - Would you sell power to Montana customers, if you can sell to neighboring states without the extra time, trouble and cost?

- **Why discourage investment in Montana?**
  - Competitive renewable and non-renewable projects within Montana need a level playing field. That's good for diverse energy and Montana.
  - Shifting mandates produce business uncertainty and price instability: What will next year's mandate--and prices-- be?
  - SB 415 penalizes the customers of "competitive suppliers" with higher electricity costs. Why locate or expand your business in Montana?

- **Limited benefits for a few developers and higher costs for most customers.**
  - Why exempt cooperatives who would be impacted, but not other Montana customers? Impacts on "rates, reliability and financial resources" matter to all Montana customers—not just coop customers.

- ***"A "feel good" vote for SB 415 will leave Montana ratepayers feeling bad...about higher electricity prices for their homes and business.***