

MISSOULA  
COUNTY



MISSOULA CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 1-24-05  
HB HB 60

January 21, 2005

Representative Arlene Becker, Chair  
House Human Services Committee  
Montana Legislature

Honorable Representative Becker:

I write in SUPPORT OF HB 60, "Indoor Clean-up Standards for Methamphetamine Labs" sponsored by Representative Harris.

This bill represents a good start by setting a standard for clean-up and providing a means of public information about contaminated and cleaned-up sites. I appreciate that the bill keeps local health departments in the information loop, but does not create a mandate at the local level for which there would be no resources or extremely varying resources across the state's many counties.

I suggest, however, that the bill be administered by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) rather than Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) as DEQ staff has the technical expertise for this work and is provided appropriate scientific oversight and formal public review by the Board of Environmental Review (BER).

I also suggest that the standard proposed, although it currently represents an appropriate level scientifically and environmentally, be provided for in administrative rules (ARM) rather than in the statute itself. This ARM mechanism allows the standard a means to more timely change as detection and clean-up methodologies improve.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ellen Leahy  
Health Officer

Cc Representatives Facey, Henry, Harris  
Susan Fox