EXHIBIT 7
DATE Feb. 3, 2005
HB 2; Dept. of Justice

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Crime Lab Request for a Second Forensic Pathologist

Background

The Forensic Science Division in Missoula is Montana's only crime laboratory. The division is requesting a **Pathologist Associate Medical Examiner** to address the continued increase in autopsies conducted by the lab's sole forensic pathologist.

Forensic pathology requires specialized training and cannot be performed by hospital pathologists because of its investigative nature and the many unique causes of death in criminal cases. A couple of years ago, Montana had four forensic pathologists. However, one retired and another is planning to retire soon. This will leave Montana with only two forensic pathologists – Dr. Bennett in Billings and Dr. Dale at the crime lab in Missoula – to conduct all the state's forensic autopsies.

Workload Increases

Dr. Gary Dale, the crime lab's forensic pathologist, determines the cause and manner of sudden, unexpected deaths or deaths unattended by a physician. He:

- performs forensic autopsies and collects evidence to be analyzed by other scientists in the laboratory,
- serves as an advisor to the coroners throughout Montana and reviews all coroners' reports on deaths occurring in the state, and
- assists investigators and scientists with crime scene reconstruction.

Dr. Dale has seen a constant increase in the number of autopsies he conducts. Last year, he performed **200 autopsies**.

Expenditure and Funding Summary

The FTE requested for a second forensic pathologist at Montana's Forensic Science lab is funded from general fund monies of $163,013 each year of the biennium. The Forensic Science Division charges agencies for autopsy services. The amount of money generated by the increased number of autopsies conducted by Dr. Dale and an additional state pathologist would pay for the expenses incurred by this additional position.

	FY 06	**FY07**
FTE	1.0	1.0
Personal Services	$160,003	$160,003
Operating Expenses	3,010	3,010
Total General Fund	$163,013	$163,013