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EXHIBIT 2
DATE Thurs Feb 10 2005
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February 10

Testimony in support of the Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address your committee. I am Florence Anderson from Choteau and I'm here to testify in support funding of the Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program at the minimum level recommended by the CDC. While I am employed by the Teton County Health Department as a tobacco prevention specialist, today I am here as a private citizen and on my own time.

I've had three family members die from tobacco-related illnesses including lung cancer and heart disease. I quit smoking for the last time 15 years ago and that's when I began volunteer work with the American Lung Association to help smokers kick the habit by instructing smoking cessation classes. While some people stopped as a result of the classes the majority didn't. From my experiences with the classes I knew it took more than a cessation class to address the tobacco addiction program.

For the past 2 years I've watched the tobacco prevention program thrive in Teton County especially among our youth. The size of our youth tobacco prevention coalitions have more than doubled and their activities increased to include getting out the message of tobacco prevention, the dangers of second hand smoke and the benefits of not using tobacco to fellow students and Teton County residents. They have become tobacco prevention advocates, and mentors to younger students, as well as educators to their teachers, friends and adults.

You have the will of the people behind you and the dollars to fund MTUPP at the CDC minimum level recommended. Increased funding of tobacco prevention will result in more Montana kids from becoming smokers and save Montana kids from premature, smoking-caused deaths. To top it off, long term smoking-related health care costs will be reduced. This is a win/win situation you can make happen!

Thank you

