

EXHIBIT 28
DATE 1/17/05
HB 259

Good Morning Chair Rice and members of
the committee.

For the record, I am Linda Minich. I am
Here in support of HB 259.

I have been a resident of Montana since
1958. I have the honor of being half of the
only couple in Montana who have had a Civil
Union ceremony performed in Vermont. My
partner and I have been in a committed
relationship for more than 25 years. During
that time we have worked for social justice
for minorities in this country. We have
many heterosexual friends, none of whose
marriages were harmed by our commitment to
each other.

During the past 25 years, my partner and I
have both been continuously employed, have
been healthy and have paid taxes to the

state of Montana and the federal government.

We are your next-door neighbors, we are the person sitting next to you in church, we are every tenth person that you encounter.

I am not here to have a battle of Bible quotations with anyone. I have had a classic Christian education I am extremely well versed in Jesus' message. I am

frustrated by the corruption of His message.

Do not use the Bible as a vehicle for hate.

We do not want special treatment. We want to be treated like the ordinary, working, tax paying citizens that we are. We want our

commitment recognized. We do no harm. We are an asset to the State of Montana.

We request that we be recognized in the "New Day for Montana" by the passage of this Civil Union Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify
before you today. I will be happy to answer
any questions.