

1/26/05  
259

Good Morning Madam Chair 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.