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EXHIBIT 5
DATE 1/26/05
HB 97, 98, 99

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Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association

January 26, 2005

Dear Chair Rice, Rep. Lange and Members of the House Judiciary Committee;

This Association supports House Bills 97, 98, 99. I signed in on behalf of MSPOA this morning on all three bills.

The Association believes the DOC WATCH program has been effective; and are in support of amendments to HB 97 giving discretion to sentencing judges for commitment to either DOC or the Montana State Prison.

The objective -- to get multiple DUI offenders off the streets -- is of great importance to this Association.

Further, the objective of HB 98 and 99 -- to give county attorneys the leverage they need in order to get a guilty plea from these same offenders -- is also important and is supported by MSPOA.

I did not think I would add a great deal to the Hearing by a "me too" on these bills. I do not want to wear out my welcome in House Judiciary.

I appreciate the fact that the position of MSPOA on these bills is important to members of House Judiciary.

I am available for any questions you may have. If you need additional information I will try to obtain it for you.

Thank You. Kindest Regards,


Jim Smith