



# CASCADE COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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EXHIBIT ~~672~~ 12  
DATE 8/16/05  
HB 614

February 15, 2005

Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620

Montana House Judiciary Committee  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620

IN RE: CASCADE COUNTY SUPPORT FOR HB NO. 614

Dear Representatives:

The Board of Cascade County Commissioners would like to take this opportunity to express our support for HB No. 614. The essence of our support is motivated by our assertion that local government services, programs, and activities must be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

As you may be aware, a number of counties across the State are currently in the process of examining courthouse accessibility issues. Counties are fundamentally exploring the nature of public services in a manner that addresses the issues with a financially reasonable approach of taking into account the limited resources available. Therefore, Cascade County, like many other counties, has explored potential funding sources for this important undertaking. Essentially, comprehensive planning and assessments are required for obtaining needed funding for this public necessity.

To further the complexity of overcoming financial barriers for this long range mission, is the fact that the majority of the courthouses engaging in this endeavor belong to the National Register of Historical Places. Consequently, restoration and rehabilitation for ADA Compliance becomes more complicated and technical assistance and support is critically needed to meet the challenge. Establishing a county courthouse restoration and rehabilitation program is a step in the right direction to address courthouse accessibility issues. Therefore, the Board of Cascade County Commissioners hereby respectfully urges your favorable consideration to this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CASCADE COUNTY

Peggy S Beltrone, Chairman  
Lance Olson, Commissioner  
Joe Briggs, Commissioner