EXHIBIT 22
DATE 3/31/05
HB 794

IN REGARDS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 794;

MY NAME IS PHIL OLSON, MY ADDRESS IS P. O. BOX 545 MANHATTAN, MT 59741.

I AM COMPLETELY IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL AND FEEL IT IS LONG OVER DUE.

I AM A PAST COUNTY COMMISSIONER (1995 THROUGH 2000) FOR GALLATIN COUNTY, MONTANA. I HAVE SEEN FIRST HAND THE FLIPPANT WAY SOME PUBLIC SERVANTS REACT TOWARD, IMPENDING OR SUGGESTED, LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THEM. USUALLY THE REACTION IS A SHRUG OF THE SHOULDER OR THE PHRASE " TAKE A NUMBER AND GET IN LINE". UP TO NOW THEY FEEL TOTALLY OUT OF REACH HIDING BEHIND THE COUNTY ATTORNEYS OFFICE.

I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT I FEEL MOST PUBLIC SERVANTS PERFORM THEIR JOBS VERY HONORABLY AND IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL THE PUBLIC AND THEREFORE THEY WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED, THEY ALREADY DO THEIR JOB PROPERLY.

IT SEEMS THAT ADDITIONAL WORDING SHOULD BE ADDED THAT STATES " IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE", ALL PRIVATE CITIZENS HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW, SO WHY NOT PUBLIC SERVANTS ALSO!

I FEEL QUITE CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL HAVE SEVERAL PUBLIC SERVANTS OR THEIR LOBBYISTS PLEADING FOR YOU TO KILL THIS BILL, WHY WOULD THEY DISLIKE THIS BILL ? PROBABLY THEY DO NOT WANT TO KEEP ALL THEIR ACTIONS " OUT IN THE SUNSHINE". IF THEY HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE THEY WOULD NOT CARE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THIS BILL.

Phil Olson