



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

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EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1-13-05
HB 75

January 13, 2005

Re: City of Missoula support for HB 75 providing a right of first refusal for the purchase of a privately owned water supply system offered for sale

House Local Government Committee Members:

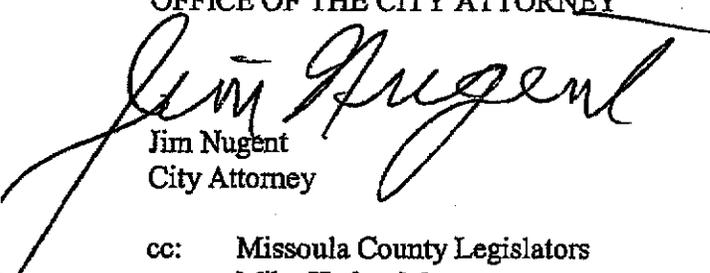
Missoula Mayor Mike Kadas has requested that I inform you of the City of Missoula's support for HB 75. HB 75 provides local governments a right of first refusal for the purchase of a privately owned water supply system if the system is offered for sale.

Water is a basic necessity of life. It is in the public interest that the public to have a voice in the provision of their water supply. It is also in the public interest to protect the water rights of a water supply serving the public through public ownership so water rights are not lost through alternative private ownership use. It is a public purpose to provide inhabitants of a community with an adequate readily available public water supply for domestic as well as municipal government use. Public ownership also provides a more efficient and effective opportunity for an urban community to provide for simultaneous expansion of both public sanitary sewer as well as public water supply services to serve growing residential, commercial and industrial areas in a timely manner as well as to provide adequate water supplies for firefighting entities to assist in protecting the aforementioned growing developments.

Your support of HB 75 is appreciated.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY


Jim Nugent
City Attorney

cc: Missoula County Legislators
Mike Kadas, Mayor
City Council
Janet Stevens, CAO
Brentt Ramharter, Finance Director
Bruce Bender, Public Works Director
Tom Steenberg, Fire Chief