

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1-18-05
HB 142

Testimony
House Bill 142
Local Government Committee
Montana State Legislature
January 18, 2005

Chairman Noennig
Members of the Committee

We write in favor of HB 142.

In recent years the communities of Froid and Medicine Lake have worked extensively in the pursuit of clean, safe, affordable drinking water for its citizens. Our efforts have involved the construction of treatment plants and related facilities that came with great costs relative to the size of our respective Towns. Because of the extremely poor ground water supplies these improvements did not produce all of the results that were needed and required.

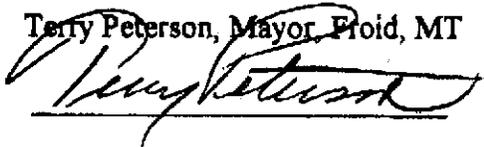
With the coming of the Dry Prairie Regional Water System, it was the desire of our communities to participate in this new System and to secure a good and lasting remedy regarding the source of our drinking water.

However, the debt that was incurred in constructing our plants does not go away. We continue to service the debt for water facilities that we can no longer use. In addition we now pay our share of the debt related to the Dry Prairie System. This places an undue burden on our citizens.

HB142 will provide mechanisms that will help address the hardship circumstances that we and many other small communities in Montana are now facing.

We urge your approval of HB 142.

Terry Peterson, Mayor, Froid, MT



Tim Hutslar, Mayor, Medicine Lake, MT

