

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 2-1-05
HB 342

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Monday, January 31, 2005

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(& Fax, but call first)

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 342, introduced by D. Wanzenreid

Dear House Committee Members:

I urge you to pass HB 342.

Missoula citizens affected by a recent proposed sanitary sewer S.I.D. literally had to win a lawsuit against our city government before they would even give the opponents of the S.I.D. so simple a thing as a fair hearing.

This is an example of how dictatorial and bullying the City of Missoula has become in its dealing with its citizens. I believe a good part of the reason for this behavior is that the City doesn't have to try very hard to justify its sewer proposals:

1. At most, the city only needs convince just more than *one-fourth* of the affected citizens that its proposal is a good one -- less if it has the waivers of right to protest; and,
2. The city can force citizens to sign waivers of right to protest for many, many reasons.

HB 342 would force cities to do a better job of designing and presenting proposals to their citizens.

(I request that you pass HB 342 as an involved and informed citizen. Since 1982 I have served on the City-County Planning Board, on the City-County Growth Management Task Force, on numerous other advisory government committees, and was a founder and president of the Missoula Neighborhood Network (an "umbrella" organization of neighborhood organizations).

Respectfully,

