

EXHIBIT 5  
DATE 3.8.05  
SB 195

# EVERGREEN BUSINESS AND PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

445 Addison Square      Kalispell, MT 59901      406-257-6867

March 8, 2005

House Local Government Committee  
Mark Noenning Chairman

I am here today representing Evergreen Business and Property Owners Association. We are an association with over 240 members from the Evergreen area just outside the city of Kalispell. Many of our members would have been at this hearing had there been more than 2 business days notice of the scheduled date. I do have over 50 letters from them asking you to vote NO on SB 195. Copies of these were mailed to each of you.

We feel that this bill takes away local control of land use and growth planning.

Flathead County has allocated \$60,000.00 for long range planning. We have a task force that is made up of City, County, and private representatives from a broad based group of local individuals, to determine the future growth of Flathead County.

Our county has just selected a firm to update and complete our growth policy by 2006 as is required by existing state law. This will require additional funds.

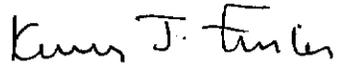
Our planning board has spent many, many volunteer hours holding 15 townhall meetings throughout the county for citizen input.

Time and cash are precious commodities to small business owners. Passing this bill will create a waste of both. Our community has the capability and determination to establish growth areas without a state mandate giving one entity complete control.

This bill will also give planning and zoning jurisdiction to elected officials that are not elected by the property and business owners that will be affected by their decisions..

For these reasons we ask that you please vote no on SB 195.

Thank you.



Kerry J. Finley, President