

EXHIBIT 7
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SB 195

MARLS Comments on SB195

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MT Assoc. Of Reg'd. Land Surveyors (MARLS)
03/07/05

SB 195 was discussed Feb. 25, 2005 during the General Membership meeting of the MARLS Annual Conference. During this discussion it was confirmed that the MARLS membership is unanimously opposed to SB195.

MARLS strongly feels that planning and growth related issues at the county and city level should be the decision of local government, not a legislative mandate espoused by smart-growth advocates. Montana is a vast state and there exist great disparities in the policies and goals related to these issues from one jurisdiction to another, especially in the major growth areas of the state.

What fits Billings may not fit Kalispell, what fits Helena may not fit Hamilton, etc. What fits the goals of the smart-growth advocates may not fit Montana. Measure 37 was passed by the residents of Oregon last fall by a 61% margin in reaction to decades of restrictions on land-use development espoused by the smart-growth advocacy.

Keep state law out of local government decisions as to how they want their jurisdiction to develop. If the local constituency isn't in agreement with the goals and policies of local elected officials, they have the right, and ability, to elect those who will reflect the majority opinion of those in the jurisdiction.