

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 3.8.05
SB 129

Lewistown Public Library



March 7, 2005

Testimony of Bridgett Johnson, Library Director, Lewistown Public Library

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

The Lewistown Public Library is in a position of desperately needing the opportunity to form a public library district for the survival of our library. We are a city library that serves all of Fergus County which results in us serving a patron base composed of approximately 60 percent city residents and 40 percent out of city residents. Our support from the City of Lewistown was cut by \$20,000 that we desperately needed for this fiscal year because the city's revenues have not grown. The County's support is only about 17% of our budget and they also have nowhere else to go for more funds.

A public library district will allow our Library to continue to provide quality library services to the residents of Lewistown and of Fergus County and to grow with their needs. We were terribly excited when the Public Library District Law was passed by the previous Legislative Assembly, but very disappointed when we discovered that as a city library we cannot participate in the formation of a new library district.

Please support the alterations proposed by Senate Bill 129 so that we can give the people the opportunity to decide what will work best for them. Thank you again for the opportunity to address the Committee and for helping us give our taxpayers choices in how their library service needs can best be met.

Sincerely,


Bridgett Johnson, Director
Lewistown Public Library