

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1.12.05
HB 201

HB 201
Fund Natural Resource Damage Litigation
January 12, 2005

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

I am Sandi Olsen, Remediation Division Administrator with the department of environmental quality. I am here in support of HB201, extending the 2003 appropriation for Natural Resource Damage and Assessment Litigation. The NRD had played a critical role with MDEQ and MDFWP in ensuring the remedy and restoration needs of the state are adequately met. The funds that have already been obtained through the natural resource damage settlements in the Clark Fork River Basin will allow the state to substantially enhance the superfund remedies that will be done all the way from Butte down to Missoula. The state already has a very substantial investment in the NRD claims that are still to be resolved and it is important to see them through to completion. This appropriation would enable this effort to continue.

Thank you