Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 16

This exhibit is a petition, which contains several pages of Montanans' addresses and signatures. The petition exceeds the maximum number of pages for scanning. Four pages have been scanned for your research. The original exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and may be viewed there.

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EXHIBIT 16
DATE 1.21.05
HB 251

Petition
In Opposition to House Bill 251

Representative Chris Harris of Bozeman has introduced a bill in the current Montana legislative session that, if passed, will place a moratorium on the issuance of any permit that "could reasonably cause permanent and substantial degradation of the Gallatin River." The moratorium would remain in place until director of the Department of Environmental Quality certifies to the governor that an environmental impact statement has been completed in response to the petition filed in March 2002 concerning the water quality of the Gallatin River.

If passed, this legislation will unfairly punish persons who have a legitimate right to pursue a permit if they meet the standards that currently are in place. The legislation also unfairly targets the residents, landowners and businesses of Big Sky and the Gallatin Canyon. These persons have no control over the environmental impact statement process, but will be directly and adversely affected by the moratorium.

For these reasons by placing my signature on this petition, I state that I oppose this bill and ask our representatives also to oppose it.

Name	Address
[illegible]	1210 S Montana Ave Bozeman, MT 59715