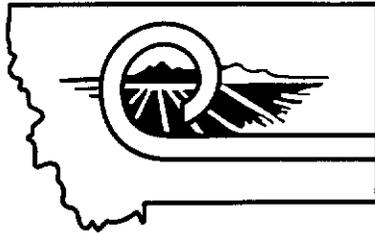


EXHIBIT 1
DISTRICTS 1-24-05
69



Montana Association of Conservation Districts
501 North Sanders, Suite 2
Helena, MT 59601
phone: (406) 443-5711
fax: (406) 443-0174
e-mail: mail@macdnet.org
website: www.macdnet.org

President

Robert Fossum
Richland

January 24, 2005

Vice President

Buzz Mattelin
Culbertson

Mr. Chairman & Members of the
House Natural Resources Committee:

Treasurer

Robert Anderson
Poplar

My name is Sarah Carlson and I work for the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD). Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

Directors

John Anderson
Alder

Todd Barkley
Baker

Bob Breipohl
Saco

Robert Fossum
Richland

Steve Granzow
East Helena

Steve Hedstrom
Raynesford

Jerry Lunde
Decker

Buzz Mattelin
Culbertson

Bill Naegeli
Trout Creek

Shirley Parrott
Round Up

Steve Vogt
Hamilton

Luther Waterland
Ekalaka

Mike Wendland
Rudyard

Jeff Wivholm
Medicine Lake

MACD is opposed to H.B. 69 because of its funding source; it guts the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program (RRGL) funding for the next ten years, which will—in effect—eliminate the program.

MACD does not currently have a position on funding water adjudication but we do have a very strong position regarding the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program (RRGL); CDs support it!

The RRGL is a well-run, efficient, and heavily-utilized program that has been assisting local communities “conserve, manage, develop, or preserve the beneficial use of renewable resources.” for many years. This program was started in 1980 and took on its current form in 1993.

I hope you will join MACD and oppose H.B. 69.

Thank you for your consideration of my remarks.

Staff

Sarah Carlson
Executive Director

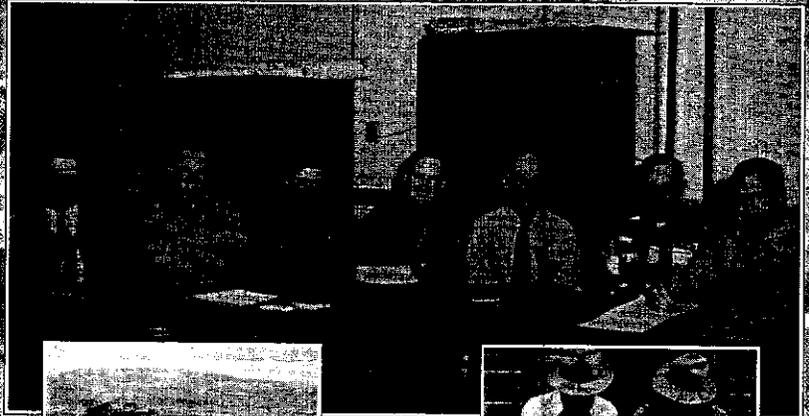
Steve Merritt
LEP & Outreach Coordinator

Jan Fontaine
Administrative Assistant

Exhibit Number: 1

The following exhibit is a booklet that exceeds the 5-page limit therefore it cannot be scanned. The booklets' cover has been scanned to help you when requesting information. The exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.

MONTANA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



- Organized in the 1930's as a response to the severe erosion problems of the "Dust Bowl" days.

Montana's 58 conservation districts are political subdivisions of the state, governed by a board of five elected supervisors.

- Funding for the operation and maintenance of services each district comes from a mill levy on property within the boundaries of the district.

Conservation districts help citizens conserve their soil, water, and other renewable natural resources.