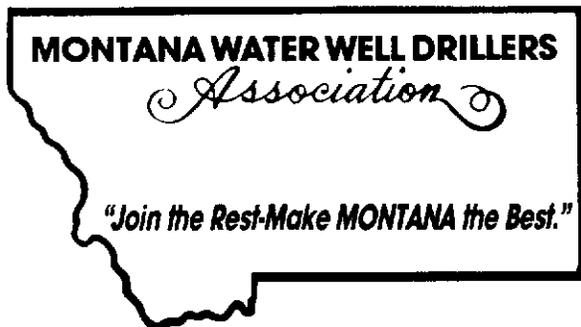


EXHIBIT 5  
DATE 1.28.05  
HB 403 Directors

President

Vice President **William Gardner,**  
**Kalispell**  
Secretary **Ryan Lindsay, Clancy**  
**Michael Lien, Polson**



Will Hayes, Bozeman  
Rick Byrne, Great Falls  
Tim Kemner, Clancy  
Curt Sampson, Belgrade  
Terry Lindsay, Clancy

Concerning HB 403  
We oppose this bill:  
The facts as we see it:

1. The current permitting of wells over 35 gpm is in a confused state and to issue a permit is taking two years or more if it is ever issued!!
2. To add 5000 domestic wells to this system would require a huge cost. Currently there is no staff to handle the process.
3. The costs and delays would stop or set back the building industry by years. This would have a severe economic impact on Montana's economy.
4. This bill would cause many problems but not contribute in any way to improve ground water knowledge. It duplicates already existing studies.
5. At present the Montana Tech of the University of Montana is in the continuing process of studying ground water in Montana. They have recently concluded their study in the Flathead and Missoula areas. The basic results have been that the change of irrigation systems from flood to sprinklers and the continuing drought has caused a lowering of shallow water but has had no effect on deeper aquifers.
6. One assumption in the bill is that all water (underground and surface) is directly connected as in a barrel! The term used is unitary resource. This is completely wrong!! 80 - 90% of underground water is either confined or semi-confined which means it is not connected directly to the surface. This is easily shown by the presence of flowing wells and the vast difference in age of waters.
7. Surface water is a few months old but underground water is from a few years to hundreds of years old - so they cannot be directly connected or unitary.

I hope you will reject this bill and look at putting some scientific facts and common sense in evaluating underground water.

Thank you -