

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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HB 455

Informational Testimony for House Bill No. 455

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the record my name is Marjean Heisler Magraw with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. I am testifying as an informational resource only.

I am the current Coordinator and Principal Investigator for the Environmental Public Health Tracking project in Montana. This project functions to integrate environmental and health information to better protect the health of communities across Montana.

The human health effects of methylmercury are well known to scientists and the medical community. Exposure to high levels has been associated with serious neurological and developmental effects.

In Montana, the most significant route of human exposure to mercury is through the consumption of fish. For this reason, our agency along with FWP issue a fish consumption advisory that provides guidelines for the safe consumption of sport fish in Montana.

For your information we will distribute a fact sheet about Montana fish and contaminants that I have provided the Committee Secretary. Also included is an informational sheet and brochure about the EPHT project so that you can become aware of our project.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we stand by to provide additional health effects information for the committee upon request to assist you in your decision making if needed.

Thank you.

Committee: Natural Resources

Hearing Date: Friday, February 4, 2005

Hearing Time: 3:00 pm

Place: Room 152

Bill Author: Rep. Paul Clark

Contacted by: Rep. Sue Dickenson, phone message February 3, 2005