EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2.10.05
HB HJ 18

ED MELCHER

TESTOMONY FOR HJ 18

MY NAME IS ED MELCHER LIVE IN BILLING MONTANA A NATIVE OF MONTANA!

I'M HERE TODAY TO GIVE YOU MY SUPPORT OF HJ 18

THE REASON THIS BILL IS NEEDED IS THAT FAMILIES OF MONTANA ARE

LOSSING AREAS TO RECREATE! THE FOREST SEVICE AND BLM ARE

GOING TOUGHT TRAVEL PLANNING ON ALL THE PUBLIC LANDS!

EXAMPLE: IN BILLINGS AIH-NIE HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR OVER 9 MOUTHS

THIS IS WITH IN 20 MILES OF BILLINGS AND THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES USE

THIS AREA!

EXAMPLE: THE CUSTER FOREST CAME OUT WITH TRAVEL PLANS FOR PRYOR MOUNTAIN THAT WOULD CLOSE OR REDUCE ACCESS TO 90% OF THE PUBLIC LANDS TO THE PUBLIC! [MAP IS SUBMITTED]

EXAMPLE: THE SAME PLAN FOR THE BEARTOOTH MOUNTAIN ALREADY HAS OVER 900,000 AREAS OF WILDERNESS! SO THEY'RE A VERY LIMITED ACCESS FOR THE PUBLIC TO RECREATE! THE TRAVEL PLAN WOULD REDUCE WHAT LITTLE WE HAVE LEFT BUY 45%! THIS WOULD LEAVE 30 MILES OF FOREST WITH NO ACCESS FOR FAMILIES!

THIS IS HAPPENING ON ALL THE NATIONAL FOREST SNOWWIES, CRAZY, CASTLES, AND LITTLE BELTS BIG BELTS ECT!

THE CLOSER WILL REDUCE PLACES WHERE FAMILIES CAN GO CAMPING ON WEEKEND AND GET OF THE ROAD A SAFE DISTANT SO THERE CHILDERN AND PETS ARE SAFE!

THIS WILL LIMITED ACCESS FOR THE ELDERY, DISABLE, HANDCAPT, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE PLACES TO ENJOY OUR PUBLIC LANDS!

I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY GRANDMOTHER ANN HANNA A MONTANA HOME STEADER!

SHE WAS BORN IN KLIEN MONTANA OUTSIDE OF ROUNDUP MT!
SHE AND MY GRAND FATHER RAY HANNA A COAL MINOR FOR OVER 30 YR IN ROUNDUPS # 3 MINE!
THEY WITH MY FATHER AND MOTHER TOOK ME HUNTING AND FISHING ALL OVER AS FAMILIES!

ONE AREA IS SPEACIEL TO ME IS CHECKER BOARD CREEK I TOOK MY GRANDMOTHER THERE 2003 JULY SHE WAS 83 YR OLD! WE HAD TO DRIVE TO THE CREEK WHERE SHE TOOK ME WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG! I CAUGHT MY FIRST FISH THERE! SHE WANTED TO TAKE HER GREAT GRANDKIDS THERE IT WAS A VERY NICE DAY IN JULY! WE GOT HER IN THE LAWN CHAIR AND SHE COULD WATCH THE GREAT GRAND CHILDERN CATCH THERE FIRST FISH! WE ATE LUNCH AS WE WAS SITTING THERE SHE LOOK OVER AND THANK ME FOR BRING HER BACK HERE! {SHE IS A VERY GOD FEARING PERSON} SHE SAID THIS PLACE HAS NOT CHANGED FOR OVER 60 YR THIS WAS HER CHURCH!

MY GRAND MOTHER PASSED AWAY IN NOV OF THAT YR I HAVE A PHOTOS AND GREAT MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST FOR A LIFE TIME!

THAT WHY WE NEED TO PASS THIS HJ 18 AND SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT THIS LAND ARE SO IMPORTANT TO OUR FAMILIES OF MONTANA!

WE NEED TO HAVE THESE LAND OPEN SO ALL OF OUR FAMILIES CAN USE!

SINCERELY YOURS

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