EXHIBIT 10
DATE 2.16.05
HB 582

Date: 15 February 2005
To: Members of the House Natural Resources Committee
From: Tarn Ream, Missoula, MT

First do no harm. A wise expression—if we can prevent injury or illness to a fellow human being, we should. HB 582 seeks to protect citizens of Montana from the health hazards posed by the incineration of PVC, which is known to release dioxins, furans, and heavy metals such as lead, mercury, and cadmium. These pollutants degrade slowly and persist in our environment—posing a threat to human health for years. Health impacts linked to these pollutants include cancer, birth defects, reproductive effects, lung disease and kidney failure, among others. Incineration is unnecessary—plastics can be landfilled safely, because they are relatively inert in the solid form. Please vote FOR HB 582 to protect the public and our valuable Montana ecosystems from plastic burning.

I was raised in the Rattlesnake Valley in Missoula. I primarily ate wild game and homegrown, chemical-free vegetables, and got plenty of exercise. At the age of 26 I was diagnosed with leukemia and no one can definitively say what caused it—it could have been the cumulative effects of hormones in the milk I drank as a child, it could have been exposure to radon, or the air from Hoerner Waldorf (now Smurfit-Stone Container) that blew in on the front of every storm that came through the valley. I am now called a "survivor"—and I guess I deserve that title after all the treatments I went through! ☺

If we can prevent just one person's illness or death, we should. Please protect our friends, families, and loved ones from the potential health hazards inherent in the burning of PVC. Please vote FOR HB 582.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Tarn Ream
Masters Student, University of MT
Interdisciplinary Studies Program
College of Forestry and Conservation

POB 9166
Missoula, MT 59807
Tarn.Ream@umontana.edu