EXHIBIT 13
DATE 2.16.05
HB 582

Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2005 15:05:39 -0700
To: Alexandra Gorman <alex@womenandenvironment.org>
From: Jim Barrett <envirocouncil@imt.net>
Subject: Re: PVC incineration hearing

Hi Alex,
Here is brief testimony in support of HB 582. Please do read it at the hearing.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the committee.

My name is Jim Barrett, I am the Executive Director of the Livingston-based Park County Environmental Council. We are a non-partisan group of more than 400 citizen-residents of Park County working to protect the quality of life in our community.
As you know, Montana's last remaining Municipal Solid Waste Incinerator will soon be taken out of service and replaced with a collection and transfer station that will provide for the transport of previously burned garbage to a landfill.

This is a remarkable milestone for our community and for the State of Montana. For the past 20-plus years a significant quantity of toxic pollutants have been allowed to blanket our community with as yet unknown consequences. Many of the chemical constituents released by the incinerator are known carcinogens and the knowledge that this practice will cease is a cause for celebration among those who take the quality of the air we breath seriously.

The Park County Environmental Council and many more citizens in our community who have participated in the closing of the incinerator support House Bill 582 because we know, first-hand, the implications associated with the burning of plastics. I'm sure you will hear testimony from those well versed in the chemistry and physics associated with the thermal conversion of plastics, especially polyvinyl chloride, and you will certainly appreciate the effects these substances can have on our communities. It is with this knowledge that, on behalf of Park County and Livingston residents in particular and the state at large, we ask you to support the passage of House Bill 582.
Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Jim Barrett
Executive Director
Park County Environmental Council
P.O. Box 164
Livingston, MT 59047