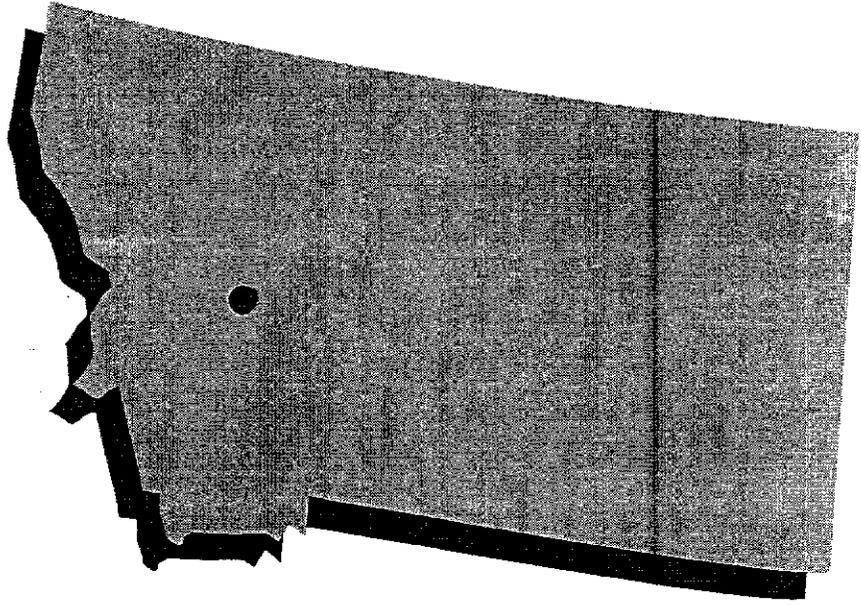


**Exhibit Number: 2**

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**The following exhibit is a booklet that exceeds the 5-page limit therefore it cannot be scanned. The booklets' cover has been scanned to help you when requesting information. The exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.**

EXHIBIT 2  
DATE 3.11.05  
SB 494



STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

*2005 Legislative Session*



The Chamber strongly supports those environmental laws and regulations that actually protect public health and welfare. The Chamber also vigorously opposes any such legislation or regulations that lack valid scientific justification, valid risk assessment, and a positive cost-benefit analysis consistent with Congressional mandates.

### Specific Issues

#### SO<sub>2</sub> levels/monitoring

The Chamber supports air quality monitoring as the proper measurement of SO<sub>2</sub> levels for determining the compliance with state and federal standards.

#### Coal Reserves

We support the development of coal reserves in Southeastern Montana. We recognize the importance of coal production in providing economic benefits and opportunity to local communities in this region and the spillover benefits that result for the Billings area and our members. We also recognize the significance of coal production to the state economy and the financial assistance it affords local communities throughout Montana. Coal demand is rising and we believe Montana has an opportunity to participate in this market increase. The responsible and timely development of new coal mines will provide a much needed economic boost to Montana. We therefore support efforts that will enable new coal production to occur, including the development of railroad infrastructure and securing access to federal and state-owned coal reserves.

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#### Adjudication

We support assessment of reasonable fees for the acceleration of the Montana Water Rights Adjudication process.

## Corrections

### Basic Philosophy

We believe in an orderly society governed by laws. Those who violate those laws by infringing upon the rights of people or property should be subjected to correction or rehabilitation. Those who cannot be corrected or rehabilitated should be incarcerated in the most cost-effective way; emphasis should be on prevention, not detention. Chamber members already support corrections expenses through high taxes and fees and need to ensure that those expenses are being used in effective and cost-effective treatment of offenders.

### Specific Issues

#### Sentencing

We support differing levels of correction, including alternate sentencing and work-release for young or first-time offenders and detention for hard-core criminals. We ask the judicial system to follow guidelines for sentencing. We believe in fair, fast, and just sentencing.