



League of Women Voters of Montana

3/16/05

EXHIBIT

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DATE

3.16.05

SB 337

SB 337

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Natural Resource Committee:

My name is Jennifer Boyer. I am here today on behalf of the Montana League of Women Voters to speak in support of Senate Bill 337. The League is a non-partisan organization; membership is open to both men and women. We are in support of proposals that expand land use planning opportunities for the state and local communities and work to protect our ecological and cultural heritage.

Senate Bill 337 expands the opportunity for using conservation easements on state owned lands. This opportunity is important to all Montanans who benefit from the resources associated with those lands. Future generations will benefit from conservation practices we put in place now. Including state lands in our conservation management is an important component of wise stewardship.

It is the position of the Montana League of Women Voters to support "the protection of fragile or historical lands, especially lands from large-scale private and public developments which cause significant changes to physical, social, or economic environments" (LWVMT, 2002). This bill would avail to the state a valuable additional tool to use in its work managing state lands.

We urge you to Support SB 337. Thank you for your consideration.