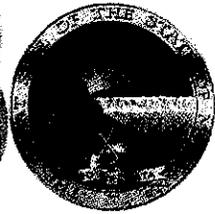


EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3.23.05
792



Lewis & Clark

C O U N T Y



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michael A. Murray

Anita L. Varone

Ed Tinsley

City County Building 316 North Park P.O. Box 1724 Helena, Montana 59624 406.447.8304 Fax: 406.447.8370

March 23, 2005

Dear Chairman Peterson and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee,

I write in support of HB 793 to implement a nominal tipping fee per ton of solid waste to fund a statewide waste reduction and recycling grant program. As a County Commissioner I can appreciate the benefits the recycling grant program will have on communities, through increased opportunities to recycling and potential cost reduction for waste disposal.

In Lewis and Clark County, we have three solid waste districts in which every household hold pays no more than \$75 per year for waste disposal. For residents in urban areas, this cost is higher. The fee schedule proposed in HB 793 increases over four years, but is unlikely to be more than a 1% increase in a typical resident's waste disposal cost. Since much of our waste stream can be recycled through effective programs, there is real potential to extend the life of our landfills, which residents pay for in their taxes.

Programs to increase recycling and reduce our waste stream often are beyond the means of local city and county governments. This necessitates a statewide support of innovative programs that can help lead the way. The mobile glass pulverizer, which has the potential to bring glass recycling to rural communities at low cost, is one example.

Please support HB 793.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Tinsley".

Ed Tinsley
County Commissioner