

March 23, 2005

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3.23.05
HB 793

To: Chairman Jim Peterson and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing in support of HB793. I cannot attend the hearing today, and request that this written testimony be incorporated into the hearing record.

I support HB 793 because its implementation would greatly promote recycling in Montana. Montana needs this, because, as you know, limited landfill space is a continual, growing problem in Montana. By reducing the amount of trash going into landfills, recycling lengthens the life expectancies of our landfills. Also, many items such as computers and batteries are so toxic that they should not be placed in landfills because their toxins eventually contaminate the groundwater and surrounding areas. Recycling these items prevents such contamination and saves clean-up costs later.

In most places in Montana, recycling is very difficult. Over the years, many items that were once easily recycled are no longer accepted by the recycling entities, making recycling so difficult that many people do not bother to do it.

This bill provides reasonable, affordable mechanisms for funding recycling programs that will greatly enhance our citizens' opportunities for recycling, and thereby make recycling simpler and more do-able for many people. The cost is minimal, and will make more recycling possible. The reduction in trash filling up our landfills would be well worth paying this small fee.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this bill. I respectfully urge you to pass it.

Sincerely,

Polly Pfister
4 Harrison Ave.
Helena, MT 59601