

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 3.30.05
SB. 376

Jon Holtzman
50300 Gallatin Road
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

March 29, 2005

Representative Jim Peterson
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
Montana House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Peterson and members of the Committee,

I hope you and your colleagues will support SB 376 and direct the DEQ to complete an Economic Impact Statement on the Gallatin River. I believe the river should be protected by designation as an Outstanding Resource Water, but I also believe it is important to do it by the book. And that means providing funding for the DEQ to do its job.

Over twenty five years ago Norman Maclean wrote *The River Runs Through It*, a story about growing up on the Big Blackfoot River where the author, his father and brother competed to land the biggest fish. Years later when the book was filmed they couldn't use the Big Blackfoot. Instead they came to the Gallatin to get pictures of a pristine waterway.

Nature, hard work and good fortune has kept the Gallatin free-flowing and clean.

I live in Big Sky. Contrary to the opinion of apparently a large number of members of the Legislature most of us who live here are not members of a millionaire's club. We have jobs like everyone else, pay taxes, raise kids, serve on local committees and live here year around. We believe the Gallatin is a resource that benefits the entire state.

The Big Sky community is about 20% built out, with a lot of room to grow. We are working hard to protect the Gallatin and its watershed. You can help us, and help all of the citizens of Montana enjoy the river for years to come by assuring that the DEQ can do its work and complete the EIS.

Sincerely,

Jon Holtzman

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