



Lewis & Clark County

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 4.1.05
SB 236

Water Quality Protection District

1930 9th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 Telephone: (406) 457-8926 Fax: 457-8990



April 1, 2005

House Natural Resources Committee

Dear Afternoon Chairman Peterson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District and the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department, I ask for your support of Senate Bill 236, an act authorizing the Board of Environmental Review to adopt water quality standards more stringent than federal regulations.

Lewis and Clark County, like many other locations across the state, relies on state and federal standards to protect the health of our residents. However, the establishment of federal standards is often slowed by the political realities of Washington, DC and the needs of millions of people across the country.

We believe that state and local governments are able to respond more quickly to local issues and local health concerns in a more focused manner than the federal government. Senate Bill 236 allows state government to evaluate the public health needs of Montana residents and make decisions on behalf of Montanans. The rigorous process described in 75-5-203 insures that frivolous changes will not occur by requiring scientific and public review.

As our scientific understanding of carcinogens increases and changes, our need increases for a more flexible and responsive process of setting water quality standards to protect human health. Senate Bill 236 helps achieve that flexibility by allowing the Board of Environmental Review to make decisions that serve Montanans best interests.

Please vote to approve Senate Bill 236.

Thank you,

Kathy Moore
Administrator, Water Quality Protection District

Cc Joan Miles, Lewis and Clark County Health Officer