

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1-12-05
HB 27

Testimony on HB27
House State Administration Committee
January 12, 2005

Testimony presented by
Arnold Olsen, Director
Montana Historical Society

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Montana Historical Society supports HB27 which loosens the auditing requirements for the Moss Mansion from quarterly to a biennial review. The cost of sending two or three staff members to Billings for several days four times per year is prohibitive given recent cuts. There are only four staff in the Society's entire business office, so the impacts of these quarterly audits to other required functions is significant. Most private organizations pay to have objective audits done to make sure credibility with donors is obtained. The fact that no state funds are provided to operate or maintain the Moss Mansion also seems to indicate less frequency would be reasonable. We believe the biennial review would protect the state's interests while minimizing expenditures. This bill is supported by the leadership of the Moss Mansion Preservation organization, and I have discussed it with them. Therefore, I urge you to positively consider this bill.