

EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 1-12-05  
HB 114

**TESTIMONY**

**IN SUPPORT OF HB 114**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**BY GARY WIENS**

**ON BEHALF OF MONTANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES' ASSOCIATION**

**JANUARY 12, 2005**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 114.

Since the passage of the historic easements legislation in 2001, Montana's 26 consumer-owned electric cooperatives have actively worked to submit their historic easement applications within the established time frame. Most of the cooperatives, in fact, are on schedule to comply with the current deadline. However, several of them are working to package their easement applications and may have difficulty having them completed on time.

Thus, the extension contained in HB 114 would be beneficial to these cooperatives and to the members they serve.

In addition, because of the large volume of applications expected to be submitted by the deadline, we believe the extension might also be of benefit to the state as it works to process these applications.

Thanks again for the opportunity to offer these comments.