

EXHIBIT 9  
DATE 1-13-05  
HB 166

HB 166

Madam Chairman, Members of the Board. My name is Connie Summers and I am the Student Lobbyist representing Montana State University-Billings. I come today to oppose House Bill 166, which aims to amend Section 2-15-1508, MCA. On the campus of MSU-B, party or slate affiliations are irrelevant in student government elections. What we are looking for is effective student representation. We feel a student regent should be appointed based on his/her student leadership, character, integrity, and ability to comprehend current statewide issues. In addition, qualifications include understanding the impact of the State budget and its consequences, especially in relation to education. What I am trying to say to you, Madam Chairman and members of the board, is we prefer a regent who is there for the students. We do not feel a political party title should be put in the picture. Furthermore, partisanship could cause the disqualification of excellent applicants who could serve the students of Montana well.