

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1-18-05
184

Chairman Jent, and members of the Committee, for the Record this testimony comes from Bette Ammon, director of Missoula Public Library who regrets that health issues prevent her from being here in person. Please support this legislation (HB 184) to change current library federation law. This change would allow federation memberships the ability to select their own federation coordinator through a change in the federation bylaws.

In the Tamarack Federation, the current headquarters library is Missoula Public Library and I have been the coordinator since 1999. Prior to that the Lincoln County Public Library served as the headquarters and that director was coordinator. It's been healthy for the Tamarack Federation to have variety in leadership and we can build on that if you pass this legislation.

While I have been pleased to have Missoula Public Library act as headquarters library, allowing other libraries a chance to serve provides valuable leadership opportunities. I know that in our federation, there are several library directors who would be willing to serve as coordinators. This will enrich the Tamarack Federation libraries and, as we all know, improved libraries have the potential to better inform and serve all Montana residents.

Thank you for your attention.

Bette Ammon, Director <http://www.missoula.lib.mt.us>

Missoula Public Library 406.721.2665

301 E Main fax 406.728.5900

Missoula MT 59802 bammon@missoula.lib.mt.us

"She is too fond of books and it has turned her brain."

Louisa May Alcott