

EXHIBIT 2  
DATE 2-9-05  
288

February 7, 2005

Via E-Mail

Chairman Larry Jent and Honorable Committee Members  
State Administration Committee  
Helena, MT

Re: HB288

Dear Chairman Jent and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing with regard to House Bill 288. It was my intention to be present for the hearing on this bill on Wednesday morning. However, I will be ordering an "Influenza Survivor 2005" T-shirt from my sickbed instead of infecting any of you with my germs.

It is a high priority of the Montana Association of Clerks of District Court to change the current system for collection of supervision fees. At our convention in June of 2004, we discussed this situation at length and have worked diligently to support the changes reflected in House Bill 288.

I have compiled information regarding the amount of money collected in supervision fees from January 1 to December 31, 2004 by the Clerks of District Court throughout the state. Enclosed herewith is a table containing that data.

As you can see, we collected a total of \$546,925.87. Twenty percent of this figure is \$109,385.19, which is adequate funding for this program to pay for itself within the Department of Corrections.

The process by which my office must accept, receipt, and forward payments of supervision fees to the Department of Corrections is burdensome and time-consuming. The payments come into our office in either \$10.00 or \$15.00 increments. My office collected \$85,058.50 in supervision fees in the 2004 calendar year. That means that over 5,670 payments had to be receipted and processed by Yellowstone County. Frequently, the person making a payment requests an additional copy of their receipt for their probation officer as proof of payment. Additionally, the Accounts Clerk, an employee in my office, must generate a report each month for the Probation and Parole Office showing the payments receipted by our office. For each payment received, a receipt must be generated in our computer system. The payment is then endorsed to the Yellowstone County Treasurer. The treasurer then generates a check for payment to the Department of Corrections. These complicated steps are absolutely unnecessary. I urge you to pass House Bill 288 as it provides a simple solution to this convoluted issue.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Brent  
Clerk of District Court  
Yellowstone County

enclosure

**Supervision Fees Collected by  
Montana Clerks of District Court  
January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004**

COUNTY NAME	AMOUNT OF FEES	20% OF AMOUNT
Beaverhead	\$6,481.50	\$1,296.30
Big Horn	\$10,734.27	\$2,146.86
Blaine	\$1,400.00	\$280.00
Brookings	\$355.00	\$71.00
Carbon	\$2,740.00	\$548.00
Carter	\$0.00	\$48.00
Cascade	\$58,896.20	\$11,779.24
Chouteau	\$1,705.00	\$341.00
Custer	\$7,098.00	\$1,419.60
Daniels	\$360.00	\$72.00
Dawson	\$9,489.00	\$1,897.80
Deer Lodge	\$5,731.00	\$1,146.20
Fallon	\$2,480.00	\$496.00
Fergus	\$6,118.56	\$1,223.72
Flathead	\$54,406.00	\$10,881.20
Gallatin	\$38,286.40	\$7,657.28
Garfield	\$510.00	\$102.00
Glacier	\$4,721.80	\$944.36
Golden Valley	\$275.00	\$55.00
Granite	\$1,515.00	\$303.00
Hill	\$17,675.00	\$3,535.00
Jefferson	\$5,120.00	\$1,024.00
Judith Basin	\$430.00	\$86.00
Lake	\$13,938.00	\$2,787.60
Lewis and Clark	\$37,012.35	\$7,402.47
Liberty	\$275.00	\$55.00
Lincoln	\$15,725.00	\$3,145.00
McCone	\$760.00	\$152.00
Madison	\$4,320.00	\$864.00
Meagher	\$75.00	\$15.00
Mineral	\$4,645.00	\$929.00
Missoula	\$53,916.90	\$10,783.38
Musselshell	\$2,370.00	\$474.00
Park	\$6,325.00	\$1,265.00
Petroleum	\$0.00	\$0.00
Phillips	\$3,285.00	\$657.00
Pondera	\$1,872.48	\$374.50
Powder River	\$540.00	\$108.00
Powell	\$2,744.00	\$548.80
Prairie	\$400.00	\$80.00
Ravalli	\$20,488.91	\$4,097.78
Richland	\$6,765.00	\$1,353.00
Roosevelt	\$960.00	\$192.00

Reserve		\$789.00
Sanders	\$9,820.00	\$1,964.00
Shenandoah	\$1,910.00	\$382.00
Silver Bow	\$20,057.00	\$4,011.40
Stillwater	\$3,730.00	\$746.00
Sweetgrass	\$980.00	\$196.00
Teton	\$2,090.00	\$418.00
Toole	\$2,005.00	\$401.00
Treasure	\$825.00	\$85.00
Valley	\$3,350.00	\$670.00
Wheatland	\$370.00	\$74.00
Wibaux	No information available	No information available
Yellowstone	\$85,058.50	\$17,011.70
<b>Total for State of Montana</b>	<b>\$546,925.87</b>	<b>\$109,385.19</b>