



League of Women Voters of Montana

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3.7.05
HB 760
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Mr. Chairman and members of the Taxation Committee,

I am Rita Blouke co-president of the Helena League of Women Voters, here today on behalf of the LWV of Montana, to speak in opposition to HB 760. We speak in opposition to this bill for many of the same reasons we oppose HB 717. This bill is not about balanced tax reform, which is what the League believes is important for Montana.

We would like to commend Representative McGillvray for his attempt to make the sales tax he proposes as progressive as possible. And it is very apparent that he and staff have spent much time working on a sales tax component that we believe many could support if it were part of a comprehensive tax system reform that included income tax and property tax in a balanced mix. But the League of Women Voters does not support replacing almost half of Montana revenue, currently received from a progressive income tax, with a sales tax, which, even with exemptions remains a more regressive tax.

It is the position of the League of Women Voters of Montana that "We support a broad-based tax system that is equitable, provides adequate revenue, and is effectively administered and enforced." We do not believe that HB 760 meets these requirements.

Please oppose House Bill 760.

Thank you. Rita Blouke,

Member, Legislative Steering Committee
of the League of Women Voters of Montana