

EXHIBIT

DATE 3.15.05

HB 764

**Testimony presented by Linda Bouck to the House Taxation Committee  
on HB 764 on Tuesday, March 15, 2005, in Room 152**

Chairman Lake and Chairman Branae, Committee Members, for the record, I am Linda Bouck, Planning Director of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support of House Bill No. 764. Anaconda-Deer Lodge County has an institutional Superfund overlay site which extends over 75 square miles of the county; 54,000 acres of which has been listed as waste management property. Anaconda-Deer Lodge County holds the responsibility of promoting development while enforcing environmental covenants and ensuring basic health and safety requirements are met.

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County as well as several other Montana counties have had vast portions of what would have been potentially developed property unfortunately restricted to waste management property. We have all experienced both the impacts of declining tax base, along with the challenges associated with development of waste management property. House Bill No. 764 would help to alleviate strains on our declining tax base by offering a development incentive, thereby evoking interest and enthusiasm in what is now unusable land.

Along with other counties who have waste management areas, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County appropriates a large amount of funding each year to ensure compliance with human health and safety requirements associated with these waste management areas.

This includes funding for:

- Additional research for deeds, transfers, etc., through the County Clerk and Recorder's office and the State's Assessor office
- Extra legal research and documentation from the County Attorney's office
- Extensive weed spraying due to the inability to utilize the property for agriculture
- Services by local Law Enforcement officials for enforcement of environmental covenants
- Health Department services for well ban monitoring, attic dust testing, etc.
- Services from Anaconda-Deer Lodge County's Historic Preservation Officer for compliance with historical sites.
- Extensive work through the Planning Department including soil sampling, enforcement of covenants, compliance with building regulations, attic dust testing, extensive zoning restrictions and overall monitoring of development.

In consideration of the benefits provided to the community of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County as well as similarly affected Counties and the State of Montana, I would like to encourage you to give House Bill 764 a **Do Pass Recommendation**.