

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 3.15.05
HB 764

To: Chairman Waitschies
Members of the House Taxation Committee

From: Connie Daniels, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission

RE: HB 764

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

For the record my name is Connie Daniels, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commissioner. HB 764 provides a positive economic development tool for communities to enter into a public private partnership to help rebuild and add valuable tax base to areas that have suffered from environmental degradation.

Currently, companies that leave waste in place that impact large sections of land are virtually rewarded in terms of tax liability. Many of these properties are taxed as agricultural grazing properties when in most instances not a single animal unit is grazed on these properties.

Communities, such as mine, have seen the tax base shifted to the remaining over burdened taxpayers to continue to carry the load. Several areas within Anaconda-Deer Lodge County have been bought out and the improvements removed from the property leaving only the land and changing the tax classifications from residential to pasture land.

I have witnessed responsible redevelopment efforts by industrial companies, such as, Golden Sunlight Mine, who is working in partnership with its local community and residents to plan for the future by developing an industrial park site for future commercial and industrial development to retain as much of its tax base as possible when the mine does close. These farsighted efforts should be applauded and applied in other areas.

I believe that HB 764 provides communities with a meaningful economic development tool to insure their participation in the redevelopment efforts that they need to recapture lost tax revenues for schools and community services. HB 764 also provides a positive

incentive for companies to work with local communities to find solutions that benefit them as well as the communities that are impacted by waste management areas.

I would strongly encourage you to support HB 764 so that communities like mine can work together to insure their future economic vitality. Thank you for your consideration.