



EXHIBIT

9

DATE

4.14.05

SB

513

F. H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER COMPANY

Lumber Manufacturers

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Established in 1912
Affiliations:

April 13, 2005



Charter Member

The Honorable Karl Waitschies - Chairman
Montana State House of Representatives
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Representative Waitschies:

As a family corporation, who owns the oldest operating family sawmill and timberlands dating back to the early 1900's in Montana, we are very concerned about the terms of Senate Bill 513, Senate Bill 521 and Senate Bill 520.

We must have good tax legislation in Montana that is positive and encourages a favorable business climate. It must also treat the citizen taxpayers of Montana fairly. These bills do not accomplish the above goals.

Both SB-513 and SB-521 create new tax burden and administrative expenses of existing as well as new businesses in Montana. This is not good for Montana. SB-520 appears to help with property taxes for the elderly and low-income families and in some limited cases may do so but will increase taxes for most Montana citizens.

In 2004, our small Company put \$23.8 million in the Flathead economy. These are 125 well-paid jobs with health and retirement benefits. They are also basic dollars in our economy. We must always remember that the wealth and economy of our country comes from the basic dollars created by the soil. I urge you to work towards better legislation by either revising these bills or tabling them and work towards better legislation in 2007.

If you have questions, please call. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

F.H. STOLTZE LAND & LBR CO.

Ronald Buentemeier

Ronald Buentemeier

Vice-President/General Manager

RB/hl

CC: Ellen Engstedt - MWPA, Keith Olson - MLA

Flathead Valley



Member Since 1966