

EXHIBIT 34  
DATE 1-19-05  
HB 301

**Memorandum**

TO: House Transportation Committee  
Scott Mendenhall, Chair

FROM: J. Jeffrey Dietz, Board Member  
Pompeys Pillar Historical Association

RE: In Support of HB 301

DATE: January 19, 2005

I am in support of House Bill 301 for the following reasons:

1. Lewis & Clark visitors coming to Montana are attracted to key Lewis & Clark sites including Pompeys Pillar National Monument, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Travelers Rest. Each of these sites has building and/or improvement programs underway and need continuing financial support. These locations will remain destination points for historical tourists for many years following the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. Investing in these sites, and Montana tourism, makes good economic sense.
2. Appropriating Lewis & Clark License Plate revenue directly to Pompeys Pillar, the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Travelers Rest means more actual dollars reaching these organizations. Routing these funds through a pass-through agency will reduce the amount of funds available for site improvements. Additional bureaucracy is unnecessary to distribute these limited funds.
3. The time for a state-wide grants program for Lewis & Clark projects is past. Such a program has been in place for three years, and all Montana communities had an opportunity to apply for grants from the Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission. Now is the time to support and improve our primary Lewis & Clark attractions in Montana, namely, Pompeys Pillar, Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Travelers Rest.