

PO Box 417
Darby, MT 59829
February 6, 2005

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 2-7-05
BILL NO. SJR

The Honorable Senator Don Ryan
Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

RE: SJR #8

Dear Senator Ryan:

I am writing to respectfully urge your support of Senate Joint Resolution #8, which pertains to the teaching of Intelligent Design Creationism in the public high schools of Montana.

The supporters of Intelligent Design Creationism (IDC) put forth the claim that IDC is "good science", when in fact it does not even qualify as "bad science." Factually put, IDC is a covert attempt by the religious right to introduce religious ideology into public school science classrooms.

The scientific process, which is the cornerstone of all scientific research, has not been followed in arriving at the "scientific" conclusions that IDC proponents support. These proponents have made blatantly false claims and told half-truths in an effort to advance a platform supported by a minority of voters and taxpayers. They have been ruthless and underhanded in their efforts to infiltrate local school boards and influence uneducated, but faithful religious advocates.

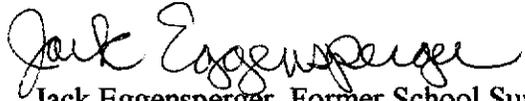
The town of Darby was subjected to the tactics of a small group of zealots whose efforts led to a divisive split in the community and wasted thousands of tax dollars. These funds could and should have been put to use in educating the children of Darby, but were instead diverted to pay legal fees, court costs, and for a misguided and unnecessary search for a new superintendent. Add to this hundreds of employees hours wasted in meetings, legal conferences, and doing paperwork related to this issue.

Darby failed to reach NCLB-AYP goals in each of its school divisions, and this was at least in small part due to the stress and anxiety of school staff over what was happening in the school and community. People's lives have been irrevocably changed in negative ways, and it could take years for the bitterness still present in the community to heal.

No community should be subjected to this, and even though the voters spoke loud and clear against IDC in the May school election, the issue has not disappeared and school board meetings remain tense and contentious.

I support this resolution, and although I am a strong opponent of IDC, I do believe there may be a place for it. That place, however, is not in the science classroom. Plain and simply, IDC is not science and has no place in a science curriculum or classroom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Eggenberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "E".

Jack Eggenberger, Former School Superintendent