SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 9
DATE 2-7-05
BILL NO. SJ-8

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2/6/05

Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to urge passage of SJR 8. The intent of this resolution is to make it clear that, in Montana, we support the teaching of a quality science curriculum in our public schools. Efforts to dilute the quality of science instruction through misguided political shenanigans is becoming more common. Specifically, due to certain beliefs, some individuals cannot accept the primary tenets of evolution and will take whatever action, ethical or not, to compromise it's teaching.

I am a professional scientist and practicing Christian. I have spent considerable time learning about the supposed problems with evolution. Through my studies, I have found no crisis or controversy with evolution, other than the misconstrued information put out, unfortunately, by some who represent themselves as fervent Christians. Their misguided and often dishonest efforts are embarrassing to me as a Christian. This dishonest twisting of science has led me to believe we need to make it clear that this will not be acceptable in Montana.

We need to assure that religious principles, some of which masquerade as science, such as "intelligent design" and "objective origins" will not become part of the science curriculum in our schools. The science curriculum needs to be based on principles accepted by the scientific community, not a minority of individuals who cannot accept what science has shown. Therefore, I suggest that the resolution include wording that only peer-reviewed science should form the basis for instruction in science classes.

Religious instruction is important and that is why we send our children to Sunday School. Vote for SJR 8 as a means to insure that science classes teach only science.

Sincerely,

Christopher G. Clancy