

**Testimony on House Bill 301
Senate Finance and Claims Committee
March 15, 2005**

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS
COMMITTEE NO. 2
DATE 3-15-05
BILL NO. HB 301

Presented by Arnold Olsen, Director
Montana Historical Society

The Montana Historical Society supports HB301 which, beginning in January 2007, provides one-fourth of the remaining revenue to the Society from the Lewis and Clark license plate sales. This bill is a compromise bill worked out in the House Transportation Committee combining HB164 (provided half of the funds for the Society and half for local communities) and HB301 (provided all funds for the three major programs in Missoula, Great Falls and Billings).

Funds for the Society will be used to support ongoing Lewis and Clark projects as outlined in the handout, for education, research, and to continue to improve and enhance the long-term Lewis and Clark exhibit which will open in 2006 and likely run through 2025. The legacy of the Lewis and Clark expedition and the impacts on Native American culture is an ongoing and active part of our history. The Bicentennial has awakened interest at all levels, and this interest will remain long after the bicentennial ends.

Therefore, we support HB301 and ask for your support as well.



Montana Historical Society Lewis and Clark Example Projects

- \$100,000 Finish enhancements of the permanent Lewis and Clark exhibit at Montana Historical Society (Neither Empty Nor Unknown).
- \$8,000 Design and produce exhibit brochure.
- \$15,000 Develop a traveling exhibit from the permanent exhibit.
- \$25,000 Develop curriculum and educational programs related to the permanent exhibit.
- \$100,000 Enhance our website producing a “virtual tour” of the permanent Lewis and Clark exhibit and digitize key elements.
- \$10,000 Support regular meetings of the Society Indian Advisory Panel.
- \$40,000 Conservation of Indian artifact collections pertinent to the Lewis and Clark era.
- \$5,000 Update and maintain our Lewis and Clark website on a regular basis; see <http://www.discoveringmontana.com/MHSweb/lewisandclark/css/default.asp>.
- \$3,000 Equipment, supplies and travel expenses for community outreach and reference related to pre-white settlement Montana.
- \$20,000 Purchase rare and out-of-print books, maps and manuscript material on Lewis and Clark, exploration, and fur trade in Montana and the West.
- \$10,000 Digitizing of fur trade and exploration material, some of our most fragile and rare items.
- \$20,000 Publish book on the Indian culture present in Montana in 1805-1806 and how it influenced the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
- \$25,000 Support archeology on Traveler’s Rest and other potential Lewis and Clark campsites, and document changes in landscape since 1806 along the trail.