SENATE FISH AND GAME 5
EXHIBIT NO. 5
DATE 3/22/05
BILL NO. HB 390

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am here to ask you to please table HB390.

I do not see the need for a state insect. Montana has a state butterfly; it is trivial whether it is called the state butterfly or the state insect, it is essentially the same principle. There are 26 classes of insects. Are you willing to let this go so far as to designate 26 different insects and have a state grasshopper, a state arachnid, a state beetle... in the name of education? Montana has a state tree, the Ponderosa Pine which is coniferous, do we also need a deciduous tree?

The language in this bill is misleading. The bill states "...by a vote of Montana school children" which implies a widespread vote. There are 452 elementary schools in MT, not counting private or home schools. This vote only included one of those schools, and therefore is not representative of wide-spread feeling.

This winter I started working for my dad, and I would like to see my tax dollars being spent to help people or do useful things. While I understand that this ultimately has little impact on the legislative budget, it is the principle of spending ANY of the money or time entrusted to your care for unworthy means. If we are not responsible in small things, we certainly will not be responsible in large ones.

I think it is demeaning to our government to spend time on such a frivolous bill. Our government should be worthy of, if not demand, more respect. The making of laws should be considered serious, not something to play around with. Laws should only be made that are truly necessary - this one is not. Please consider whether it is right for you to use your power to make laws that are unnecessary.

Please vote against unneeded legislation and big government - vote to table HB390!

Greg Ticknor (age 15)
4910 Silver Creek Rd.
Helena, MT 59602