

**Testimony on HB187**  
**Senate Highways and Transportation Committee**  
**March 8, 2005**

SENATE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION	
EXHIBIT NO.	<u>2</u>
DATE:	<u>3/8/05</u>
BILL NO.	<u>HB 187</u>

Testimony presented by  
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Montana Historical Society

The Montana Historical Society has recognized the historic importance of the Old Forts Trail by supporting the initial bill in 1989 that recognized the eastern section of the Old Forts Trail. HB187 would extend this important international link to include a second, western branch from Fort Benton up to Fort McLeod and Calgary, Alberta. The bill would further recognize Fort Benton's importance as the key and first link along the historic military supply routes into Canada. Passage of this bill would foster further partnerships with Parks Canada and allow placement of cooperative interpretive signage at Fort McLeod and Calgary in Alberta and at the site of Fort Conrad in Montana. Since Calgary is Canada's international travel hub, extension of the Trail would bring potential economic development opportunities to Great Falls, international visitors to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, and increase tourism to Fort Benton.

I urge your support to HB187.