EXHIBIT 1
DATE
SB 4

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this House Bill 61/Senate Bill 4. My name is Dave Arbenz. I live in Helena. I am retired and I have some time on my hands. I am a volunteer of the Prickly Pear Sportsman's Association here in Helena. I am the treasurer of this association and I also handle memberships. The association had 1,000 members last year. The association has experienced a growth rate of about 50 new members each year. We expect to have 1.050 members for 2005. We expect to have 1,100 members for 2006.

The main attraction of this association is the SHOOTING RANGE located about 10 miles from Helena on Highway 12 West and on this side of MacDonald Pass. We have within this facility:

1) A combined 25 yard and 50 yard RANGE that is mainly used by people who enjoy shooting revolvers and pistols;
2) A 100 yard RANGE used by rifle shooters; and,
3) A combined 200 yard and 300 yard SHOOTING RANGE used by people who like to shoot rifles.

This facility consists of benches and tables that are used to shoot from. There are target stands that are used to attach and to hold paper targets. Berms of dirt and banks that have been excavated into the ground are located behind these target stands to catch, stop and hold bullets that have been fired at the paper targets. There is also an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) toilet located at this SHOOTING RANGE.

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This SHOOTING RANGE is open and shooting is allowed all year during daylight hours. The snow is ploughed, the grass is mowed and the target stands are replaced as needed and the facility is maintained. Our maintenance costs are about $500 per month.

This SHOOTING RANGE is used by many people for sighting in their rifles prior to hunting season, by many for the challenge of hitting the target at various distances and by many to meet their friends and discuss many and varied subjects. Newcomers to this RANGE have consistently expressed very positive first impressions with this RANGE.

Rules are in place and spell out what is expected by our members. Each member signs a contract with the association that he will abide by these rules. These rules are enforced.

The individual member supplies his or her own firearm, the ammunition that he or she will be shooting, the paper targets that will be shot at and all accessories and incidental items that may be needed by thae individual.

I am hoping that I have conveyed to you that there are many people who enjoy shooting at this range. There are numerous ranges across the Grand and Glorious State of Montana.

I would like to urge the addition of a line to Section 4 of this HB61 that would include the specific phrase of "SHOOTING RANGES".

I would like to urge the addition of a line to Section 3 of this Senate Bill 4 that would include the specific phrase of "SHOOTING RANGES".

Thank you for this opprotunity to speak and for your time.