SENATE JUDICIARY
Exhibit No. 1
Date 1-28-05
Bill No. SB 282

The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

January 28, 2005

TO: Senator Mike Wheat, Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: SB 282

I am sorry that I can't be here today to testify for Senator Smith's Bill, SB 282 on Racial Profiling. I want to thank Senator Smith for carrying this important legislation and I would like to be on record with strong support for this bill.

I will share an incident that happened to one of my constituents from the Blackfeet Reservation that I hope will give you a picture of the need for this type of policy.

> A Blackfeet woman (along with her children) was stopped by a law enforcement officer in a community off reservation and in the interaction between the law enforcement officer and the individual, the law enforcement officer asked woman if she had been drinking? She told him no and he responded with something like "Oh don't tell me a big Indian gal like you didn't have a little firewater?" She was arrested and had to spend the night in jail. Later in court, charges were dropped.

I recognize this is only one story in Montana and does not reflect the majority of our law enforcement officers in Montana, who are well trained and do an excellent job in providing for public safety in our communities, but this type of behavior should not be tolerated. We need policies in law enforcement as well as training for law enforcement to ensure that racial profiling does not happen.

I appreciate the Justice Department's willingness to address this issue. I believe this bill will help and I ask you to support it.

Sincerely,

Carol C. Juneau

Carol C. Juneau, HD 16