

Exhibit No. 3
Date 2-3-05
Bill No. SB 258

46683 Crowe Lane
Havre, MT 59501
February 3, 2005

Senate Judiciary Committee
Room 303
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

RE: Senate Bill No. 258

Dear Committee Members:

Senate Bill No. 258 recognizes that it is necessary to protect the economic well being of individuals engaged in agricultural production along with other surface users. This is important, as I have tried to negotiate the same terms for seismic exploration already performed on our farm by another company. The response given by a multi-billion dollar company is that they have the right to access our property, (this is from leases dated in the 1960's), and subsequently forced their way onto our farm. The damages that we suffered were several times higher as this company showed complete disregard for our farming operation. (For example, they buried a seismic truck in a spring, compacted farm ground and trampled grassland needlessly). The company representative would only pay \$5.00 per acre. He informed us that they had been to court before and did not have to pay anything. They were being generous to offer us anything at all. Nonetheless, we tried to hold this company to standards that correlated with the prevailing policy and rate, we received nothing. Instead the response was, "sue us".

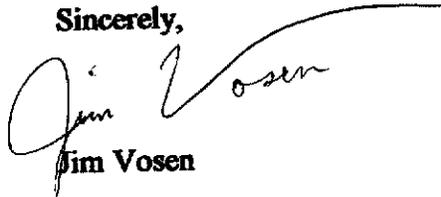
We are forced into doing business with a company that has no qualms about taking us for every nickel and dime that they can. This is in spite of their record profits. However, we are also fortunate to have a company that pays at prevailing rates, tries to minimize the interference with our farming operations, and more importantly, does so in a timely manner. This is in complete contrast to a company who shuts down our seeding operations, interferes with harvest, and will do whatever it takes to get their way. Should you dare to question them, they will claim that you are delaying or holding up their operations and threaten to sue you for \$10,000.00 a day. Conversely, the surface owner can only sue for damages to the land. Thus, the oil and gas company essentially has no liability. Should legal action be pursued, what limited recourse that one has is quickly negated by the cost of litigation. That is if the oil and gas company even bothers to respond. It is not unusual for our attorney to simply be ignored in settlement negotiations. They have exerted so much pressure that they have caused my Mom to have a stroke. Sadly, this stemmed from trying to get basic information that should have been available regarding the drilling for natural gas in our area. The information was sought in order to protect our drinking water. The high quality water that was once a

cornerstone of our farming operation is no longer. The water developed an odor similar to the smell of rotten eggs.

Senate Bill No. 258 stipulates that owners of the surface estate be justly compensated for use of their property and interference with the use of their property due to oil and gas development. This bill also requires that oil and gas companies enter into good faith negotiations with the surface owner and provides requirements that they must meet. Without this bill, some oil and gas companies will continue to get their permit from the Montana Board of Oil & Gas Conservation and choose, at their discretion, what they will do for the surface owner, if anything.

Please enact Senate Bill No. 258.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Vosen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Jim Vosen".

Devon Energy's 2004 Net Earnings Top \$2 Billion; Oil and Gas Production, Revenues and Net Earnings at Record Levels

Wednesday February 2, 7:50 am ET

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 2 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ – Devon Energy Corporation (NYSE: DVN - News) today reported record net earnings for the year ended December 31, 2004, of \$2.2 billion, or \$4.51 per common share (\$4.38 per diluted common share). This was a 25 percent increase over Devon's 2003 net earnings of \$1.7 billion, or \$4.16 per common share (\$4.04 per diluted common share). Per-share amounts reflect a two-for-one stock split completed in November 2004. A 10 percent increase in oil, gas and natural gas liquids production and higher realized prices for these products led to the record results.

For the quarter ended December 31, 2004, the company reported net earnings of \$673 million, or \$1.38 per common share (\$1.35 per diluted common share). This compares to net earnings of \$543 million, or \$1.16 per common share (\$1.13 per diluted common share) in the fourth quarter of 2003.

"Devon delivered record-breaking performance in 2004, from nearly every perspective," said J. Larry Nichols, chairman and chief executive officer. "Record production of 251 million barrels of oil equivalent and rising oil and gas prices led to record net earnings and earnings per share. Furthermore, with drill-bit capital of \$2.8 billion we added 313 million barrels of proved reserves, before price revisions. Simultaneously, the company reduced net debt by \$1.8 billion with free cash flow. Devon is clearly performing at a very high level and we couldn't be more enthusiastic about our future."