

Bill Number 4
Date 2-3-05
Montana Land and Mineral SB 258

Owners Association

P.O. Box 1301

Havre, Montana 59501

February 3, 2005

State Judiciary Committee
Montana State Capital
Helena, Montana 59620

RE: SB 258

Dear Committee Members:

I am addressing you as a land owner, mineral owner, and president of the Montana Land and Mineral Owners Association.

I ask that you support SB 258. We need laws to include and protect the surface owner of split estates. Often the oil and gas operator neglects the surface owner because his lease is with the mineral owner, which gives the operator the right to enter, explore, and develop with no consideration to the surface owner.

I often get calls from surface owners asking what they can do when they are told by the operator that they have no say in the mineral play on their land.

It is disheartening that the surface owner has to suffer the disruption and damage on his land and if the operator does not deal with him fairly, his only recourse under law is to proceed to court, which is often cost prohibited.

Thank you,



Herbert Vasseur

HCR 71 Box 29
Chinook, Montana 59523
(406) 357-3563