8
Date 4-6-05
HB 782

Amendments to HB 782
John E. Bloomquist, Montana Stockgrowers Association

1. Page 2, Line 3:
   After: "by"
   Strike: "judicial notice"
   Insert: "the court"

2: Page 2, Lines 24-26:
   After: "right"
   Strike: remainder of lines 24-26

3. Page 2, Line 27:
   After: "duties"
   Insert: "of the attorney general"

4. Page 3, Line 4:
   After: "obtained"
   Strike: "through judicial notice; or"
   Insert: "by the court;"

5. Page 3, Line 5:
   After: "the"
   Strike: "claim."
   Insert: "claim; or"
   Insert: "(d) remove the issue remarks."

6. Page 3, Line 16:
   After: "objections"
   Strike: "to the most senior claims in a basin, as well as all other objections in a basin,"
   Insert: "to claims in a basin"

7. Page 3, Line 20:
   After: "added to"
   Strike: "a claim record"
   Insert: "an abstract of water right in a water court decree,"
   After: "factual"
   Strike: "and"
   Insert: "or"

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April 5, 2005,

Secretary Mari Prewett Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: HB22

The Dawson Co-Wide Farmer's Union is in favor of the concept of HB 22, because we recognize the great importance of Montana water rights and agree that we should bring them into conformity with the Constitution of the State of Montana (that all water rights will be quantified and confirmed).

However, we are in total disagreement with the fee schedule as set out in Section 5 because they are unfair and complicated. (Subsection 4 (b) (ii) (iii) (c) (i) (ii) (iii) (d) (i) (ii) (iii) (e) (i) (ii) (iii) (f) (i) (ii) (iii) Subsection 5 (a) (b) (c) Subsection 6 Subsection 7 Subsection 8)

We oppose New Section 6 Debt Collection because of the way the fees are collected. A simpler way would be to assess the fees as a lien on the property and have them collected when the taxes are paid on the land or property.

We support New Section 7, Water Adjudication Account for the way the fees are to be handled after they are collected.

We also oppose assessing an additional fee on water rights that were decreed before 1979.

The Dawson Co-Wide Farmer's Union strongly suggests that HB22 be put into a subcommittee to address the unfairness of the formentioned sections.

Dena Hoff — President
Irene Moffett — Vice-President
Lowell Stevenson — Board Member
Neil Kubesh — Board Member
John A. Wielgosh — Board Member
William Day — Board Member