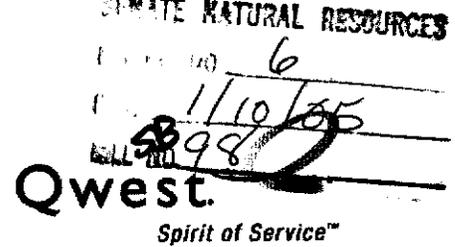


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Rick Hays
President - Montana
January 7, 2005

Senator Glenn Roush
Chair
Senate Natural Resources
Montana State Legislature / Room 405
State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Dear Chair Roush and members of this committee:

I regret that I am unable to appear before your committee when SB 98 – Montana Land Information Act will be heard Monday.

Qwest, a provider of telecommunications services in most parts of Montana, has worked with the parties proposing this bill and supports its purpose and goals. The gathering of more land and property data in an electronic or digitized format becomes more important to our business everyday as we attempt to extend new technologies further and wider across this state.

The legislation will allow the agency to continue its previous efforts on this endeavor which will only grow in importance in the future. We appreciate the agency's efforts to provide a reasonable, collaborative bill which we feel will benefit Montanans for years to come.

Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Hays". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".