



Montana Audubon

P.O. Box 595 • Helena, MT 59624 • 406-443-3949 • mtaudubon@montana.com

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
ENRICH NO. 6
DATE 1/21/2005
BILL NO. SB236

January 21, 2005

Proponent Testimony for SB 236

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,
My name is Derek Goldman and I am here representing Montana Audubon. Our conservation organization has ten chapters statewide, which includes over 3,500 members.

We support SB 236 authorizing the adoption of more-stringent-than-federal water quality standards for carcinogens. Common carcinogens are dioxins, organo-chlorines, and arsenic. We are mainly exposed to these chemicals from water and from our food supply. Dioxins in particular, bio-accumulate in the fatty tissue of animals, and when we eat fish, meat and dairy products we ingest higher concentrations of these carcinogens.

One reason why Montana should have the authority to set more stringent standards for these carcinogens is that the EPA's standards are based on risk-assessments that are determined by cancer risk to adults only. These assessments ignore the higher risk to infants, children and developing fetuses, as well as the cumulative effects of exposure to multiple carcinogens. Thus, the federal standards may be skewed toward a higher level of exposure.

Secondly, the EPA under the current administration has been widely criticized for dragging its feet on setting water quality standards, and in the case of arsenic, it has attempted to significantly weaken the standard. We feel that, when for political reasons the EPA abdicates its responsibility to adequately protect public health, aquatic wildlife, and our environment in general, Montana DEQ should have the authority to step in.

Please give SB 236 your support. Thank you.

Chapters:

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Bitterroot Valley

Five Valleys
Missoula

Flathead
Kalispell

Last Chance
Helena

Mission Mountain
Polson

Pintlar
Butte • Dillon

Rosebud
Miles City

Sacajawea
Bozeman

Upper Missouri Breaks
Great Falls

Yellowstone Valley
Billings