SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
EXHIBIT NO. 6
DATE 2/01/05
BILL NO. SB336

Industry hires very good PR people that have convinced the Oil and Gas Board that they are the only people that know anything. The Conservation District met with the Oil and Gas Board about three years agoto get them to understand the discharge numbers that the industrywas telling them would be safe. We talked for three hours and finally some of the board members said they sympathized with us. They met after we left and approved the industry's recommendations. I believe that the Oil and Gas Board has a strong interest in supporting the industry's wants and leaving the mess to someone else to worry about.

The Conservation District's Land Use Ordinance is a good place to begin but we really don't have the money or man power to police the industry and is really only good in one district. We need help and feel DEQ is the best agency to help get this done. They are already involved heavily in TMDL studies. I feel this also needs to be getting a top priority as environmental impact statements that support industry are numerous. Not one of them address TMDL which has a great impact on the environment.

The Conservation District has also helped set up a watershed group on Rosebud Creek. We couldn't get any monitoring help and we felt we needed to do something ourselves. We are doing soil and water samples as well as working with the Cheyenne Indian Reservation. We feel the watershed approach will enable Government Agencies, environmental groups, locals, industries, and reservations to work together to get some things done to reduce impacts.

We strongly believe the Oil and Gas Board does a good job as far as generating money for the state but at too high of a cost. We believe the DEQ will do a better job of policing the industry and will be better in enforcing clean up as Department of Environmental Quality does mean just that; "Environmental Quality."

We also urge the Legislature to insure funding through the taxes on Coal Bed Methane Wells for monitoring through DEQ and local groups who are just trying to save Montana.

Respectfully

David Davenport

Rosebud Conservation District