

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 2/16/05
BILL NO. SB417

**SB-417
Senator Curtiss**

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE GOVERNOR TO PETITION THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR RULES RELATED TO INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS IN NATIONAL FORESTS IF ALLOWED BY FEDERAL REGULATIONS; REQUIRING SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR PETITION; AND REQUIRING LOCAL INVOLVEMENT”

Testimony

By

Edward W. Regan

RY Timber Inc.

2/16/05

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Ed Regan. I work for RY Timber, Inc. as their Resource Manager. The most important responsibility of my position as Resource Manager is to secure enough logs to keep our sawmills running. RY Timber is a family owned company which operates sawmills in Townsend and Livingston. We directly employ 200 people in the mills and contract with loggers whose workforce numbers around 250 workers.

I rise today in support of SB-417. This bill is exactly what both sides in the roadless debate have been hoping for over the past 29 years. SB-417 ensures that the voice of Montana is heard regarding the future management of six million roadless acres in our state. The local input required under SB-417 guarantees that our social and economic concerns will be addressed at the federal level.

Who better than local officials working together with resource professionals and Montana citizens can recommend the most suitable management plan for these lands? I say no-one. SB-417's approach to the roadless issue will best serve the people of Montana by ensuring that future land management decisions are based on actual ground conditions and not some 'one size fits all' model developed back in Washington, DC.

The timely resolution of the whole roadless question is very important to Montana's timber industry. Lands not suited for wilderness designation need to be put back under active management. Using active management we can foster better forest health while providing additional raw materials for our resource dependant communities. I recommend that you vote in favor of the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Edward W. Regan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward W. Regan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

2/16/05