

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

*Boosting local economies, revitalizing communities
and improving education through the arts*

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 6

DATE 1.10.05

BILL NO. 69

316 NORTH PARK AVENUE
CITY-COUNTY BUILDING, ROOM 252



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
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January 9, 2005

Testimony from Arlynn Fishbaugh, Executive Director
Montana Arts Council

In Support of SB 69, Creation of a Montana Poet Laureate

Good afternoon Madame Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Arni Fishbaugh and I am the Executive Director of the Montana Arts Council.

The Montana Arts Council supports this bill and we are pleased to participate in the administration of the program.

We concur that a partnership of the Montana Arts Council, the Montana Committee for the Humanities and the Montana Center for the Book would make a strong nominating group for the Poet Laureate. Creating a partnership for nominations would be helpful to the arts council, since all of the panels we'd normally convene for Literature awards have been eliminated due to legislative budget cuts.

This award makes great sense in Montana, known nationally for the prowess of our writers. We urge your support for this bill, as well.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arlynn Fishbaugh".