

# POWELL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARTS FOUNDATION

Montana Auto Museum • Old Montana Prison • Frontier Montana Museum • Yesterday's Playthings

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 4

DATE 1-12-05

BILL NO. SB73

January 11, 2005

Senate Committee - State Administration  
2005 Session  
Montana Legislature  
Helena, Montana

Re: Senate Bill 73 (Revise requirement for location of Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial)

Members of the Senate Committee:

My name is James R. Haas, and I am the Curator for the Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation (PCM&AF).

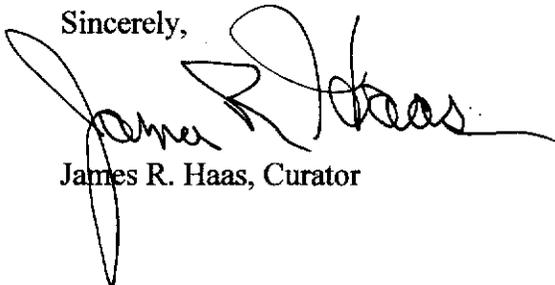
The PCM&AF has been the designated recipient of a goodly number of donated artifacts which currently reside in the exhibits of the Montana Law Enforcement Museum (MLEM) at Deer Lodge, Montana.

As Curator for PCM&AF, I bring to you my concern that proper and recognized processes are followed for de-accessioning artifacts, or removing artifacts, from the present collection of exhibits in the MLEM. The archival evidence is only complete and valuable as historical evidence if its integrity is maintained and documented.

Minimum proper procedures might include written documentation, photographic documentation and an ordered systematic numbering or listing to an archival record. Such documentation addresses the issue to properly account for items, recognizing the trust put into the deposition of such items by the donors.

I urge this Committee to place a condition regarding proper documentation before any items entrusted to, and/or in the present achieves of, the MLEM are removed or relocated.

Sincerely,



James R. Haas, Curator