

Secy Copy

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 6

DATE 1.12.05

BILL NO. SB 81

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 81**

*Senate State Administration Committee*

01/12/05

*Presented by:*

**ROGER A. HAGAN**

**Officer and Enlisted Associations of the Montana National Guard**

Madam Chair, members of the committee, for the record my name is Roger A. Hagan. I represent the more than 3,000 members of the Officer and Enlisted Associations of the Montana National Guard. It is my pleasure to rise in support of Senate Bill 81. I would like to thank the Department of Military Affairs for requesting this bill and Senator Stapleton for sponsoring this very important legislation. Our Associations worked with the DMA and Senator Stapleton last session to get the Montana National Guard Civil Relief Act established last session. We are proud to be here today to support this simple but very important change to the Act.

From the 1,769 Army and Air Guard members fighting forest fires in 2000 to the several hundred Montana soldiers and airmen who responded, and continue to respond, to the call for defense of our homeland, your citizen soldiers and airmen need this adjustment to the existing umbrella of protection. The definition change from 30 to 10 consecutive days of full-time State Active Duty or full-time National Guard duty will provide this important protection to the greatest majority of our National Guard members when they are called by the Governor to protect our state or when performing federal duty under Title 32 of the United States Code.

Our Associations urge your 'do pass' vote on Senate Bill 81. Again, I wish to thank the Department of Military Affairs and Senator Stapleton for their efforts on this issue. I also wish to thank the Senate State Administration Committee for their consideration of this bill. Thank you for your time and support.

