SENATE STATE ADMIN.
EXHIBIT NO. 3
DATE 1-28-05
BILL NO.

ANTHONY J. PREITE

Anthony J. Preite was born and raised in Havre, Montana. He attended St. Jude's grade school, Havre Central High School, and graduated from Northern Montana College in 1963. He taught government and social studies and was coach/athletic director at Turner High School from 1964-1968.

In 1968, Mr. Preite accepted a position as Community Development Specialist, with Bear Paw Development in Havre, MT. His duties included coordinating economic growth activities and implementing the Overall Economic Development Plan for Hill, Blaine, and Liberty Counties and Fort Belknap and Rocky Boys Indian Reservations in north central Montana. He was elevated to Executive Director in 1969.

From 1971-1973, he worked in Seattle, Washington, as Special Project Director, (Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, and California) of the Economic Development Administration for the U.S. Department of Commerce. He was instrumental in the development of dozens of successful economic and community growth projects resulting in infrastructure improvements and the creation of hundreds of job opportunities in the multi-state area. In 1973, Mr. Preite returned to the Executive Director position with the Bear Paw Economic Development District.

Mr. Preite was selected as the 1993 winner of the Forrest Koch Award for Excellence in Economic Development, from the Denver Regional Office, Economic Development Administration.

Mr. Preite was appointed by President Clinton as the State Director of Montana, Farmers Home Administration in the spring of 1993. Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act legislation was passed by Congress on October 1, 1994; this was followed by the passage of the 1996 Farm Bill on April 4, 1996, as a result the agency named changed to USDA – Rural Development. In 1995, Mr. Preite received the U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Award, one of the highest awards that the Secretary can bestow upon an employee.

As Head of Rural Development, Mr. Preite supervised three departments, Rural Housing Service (RHS), serving communities and very low to moderate income families; Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS), providing business loans and guarantees; and Rural Utilities Services (RUS) benefiting communities and towns. These three departments have a Montana portfolio of almost half a billion dollars. In 1997, Mr. Preite was chosen as the Outstanding Fifty State U.S.D.A. Director. This was the first time U.S.D.A. Rural Development made the prestigious award.

In December of 1999, Mr. Preite was selected as the EDA, Denver Regional Office Director. This was a nation-wide, non-political competitive Senior Executive Service position. As Regional Director, he supervised activities in ten Western and Mid-western states.

Mr. Preite has served as President of the Montana Economic Development Association and as Chairman of the Governor's Economic Development Council. He has been a member of the Montana Private Industry Development Council, the National Association of Development Organizations and is a member of the Senior Executive Service. He currently serves as vice-president of the Montana Aerospace Development Association.

Until recently, he served as Director of the Office of Space Commercialization and Director of the Office of Economic Development Outreach at the University of Montana. On November 18, 2004, Governor-elect Schweitzer nominated him to be Director of the Montana Department of Commerce.

Mr. Preite and his wife, Betty, reside in Helena. They have a son, Robert and wife Barbara, of Salt Lake City; a daughter, Julie and husband Randy Tilleman, of Spokane, Washington and three grandchildren; Anthony; Annelise, and Dominic, of Salt Lake City.