



EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 3-19-07  
HB 236

March 19, 2007

TO: Representative Sinrud and Members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Marg Crennen, Volunteer Advocate, AARP Montana

RE: **Support HB 236, Residential property tax credit for elderly -- adjust for inflation**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the record my name is Marg Crennen, volunteer advocate for AARP Montana. AARP is a non-profit, non-partisan organization with 154,000 members in the state.

AARP Foundation, our affiliated charity, offers free tax preparation for low- and moderate-income individuals, with special attention to those 60 and older. We often hear through these volunteers that the residential property tax credit for the elderly is one of the best things the state offers older Montanans.

This credit was established in the early 1980s and has not been adequately adjusted for inflation. HB 263 will provide a meaningful increase in the credit to those with limited incomes, while maintaining a cap on eligibility and a cap on the credit given to those with a little higher income. We strongly support this credit for those Montanans who are desperately trying to age in their homes and those who have moved into a smaller rental home or rental home with some assisted care.

Studies put out by the US Department of Housing show that many people are now paying over half of their income on housing costs, especially renters. Many elderly renters do not receive other forms of assistance. However, they will take advantage of this tax credit. HB 236 will provide needed relief to Montanans who are trying to juggle rapidly increasing housing, health care and heating and cooling costs.

We thank Representative Jacobson and all of the co-sponsors of HB 236 and ask your support.