EXHIBIT 5
DATE 4-2-07
SB 25

SB 25 Testimony

The Montana Logging Association would like to express support for SB 25. We believe that this legislation will provide an invaluable tool for the DNRC to be stewards of State forest lands and to maximum revenues for our schools.

Currently, DNRC does not have the ability to contract services for such simple projects as removing hazard trees around a campground or cabin sites without going through a timber sale contract. Nor can they contract projects that would allow them to maximize revenues for schools through marketing a multi species/multi product timber sale. SB 25 would allow the DNRC to be more reactive to the various markets for wood products in Montana. This authority could also enable the DNRC to proceed with environmentally sensitive projects that require specialized equipment or the services of a proven contractor.

Similar legislation in Washington State has successfully earned 15% higher revenues … and has resulted in the completion of several environmentally sensitive projects.

As stewards of our State's forested land the DNRC needs this authority.

The proposed limit of 10% of the State's timber sale program will provide an opportunity for the legislature to evaluate the success of this new authority without negatively impacting the State's timber sale program.

The Montana Logging Association has long supported the DNRC's mission of maximizing revenues for State Trusts… therefore; we respectfully request this body will pass SB 25.

Thanks for your attention.

Jason Todhunter
Montana Logging Association