EXHIBIT 36
DATE 2/13/07
HB 9

Testimony for Big Horn Arts and Crafts Association on behalf of our grant request
2-12-07 scheduled at 9:47 AM

Mister (Madam) Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is_____ I am representing the Big Horn Arts and Crafts Association, also known as the JailHouse Gallery in Hardin, MT. I am testifying on behalf of grant # 1246 requesting funding for a special project grant to provide Big Horn County resident's access to cultural and artistic experts and most importantly to improve the racial/ethnic relationships within the county by utilizing both Native American and non-native presenters for the workshops and seminars to be held at the JailHouse Gallery.

Big Horn County is one of the largest counties in the state. The JailHouse Gallery is the only entity for community members to partake in artistic display and events. The state/county budget cuts through the years have adversely affected the gallery financially. However it continues to survive, remain stable, and has in fact grown in the variety and number of artistic endeavors displayed and brought into the community.

We are now at the point where we would like to expand by offering workshops and seminars for community members. In order to do this we will need to rent additional space for the workshops/seminars, as well as provide the appropriate furniture and basic technical equipment. We would provide six (6) educational/artistic demonstrations/presentations each year to the community such as wagon train cookery, sewing of period dress for the Reenactment, needlework, history of antique glass and collectibles, history and etiquette of the Grand Ball, contributions of music to the cultures, contributions of dance, beading, quill work, tanning of hides, uses of and sewing of buckskin, ceremonial dress interpretation, history and putting up of tipi's, food preservation, medicinal herbs, sign language, and defining Clan system. These and other such presentations will be based on the results of a survey of possible topics given to the community members.

It is a known fact that the arts tend to draw and bind people together, often resulting in a better understanding of the culture behind the art as well. While this project is important educationally, artistically and culturally it has a deeper importance as a means to improve the relationships between the Native Americans and non-native residents of Big Horn County. For example, when a Native American presents a workshop or seminar it will draw participants from all ethnic groups. To date there is no other place in the county where such an exchange can occur. Thus this project will be the first of its kind to utilize artisans of the various cultures as they demonstrate their expertise. It is also the perfect, insidious way to help break down the centuries-long barriers between Native Americans and non-native residents of the county.

In the proposal we asked for $30,000 for this project and have been recommended to receive $7,000. We feel the ramifications of being able to begin a healing of the cultures through this project as well as the ability to duplicate it elsewhere in the state should place this project at a higher level of funding. We ask that you consider increasing the funding for this project.

Thank you for your time.