

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit 14

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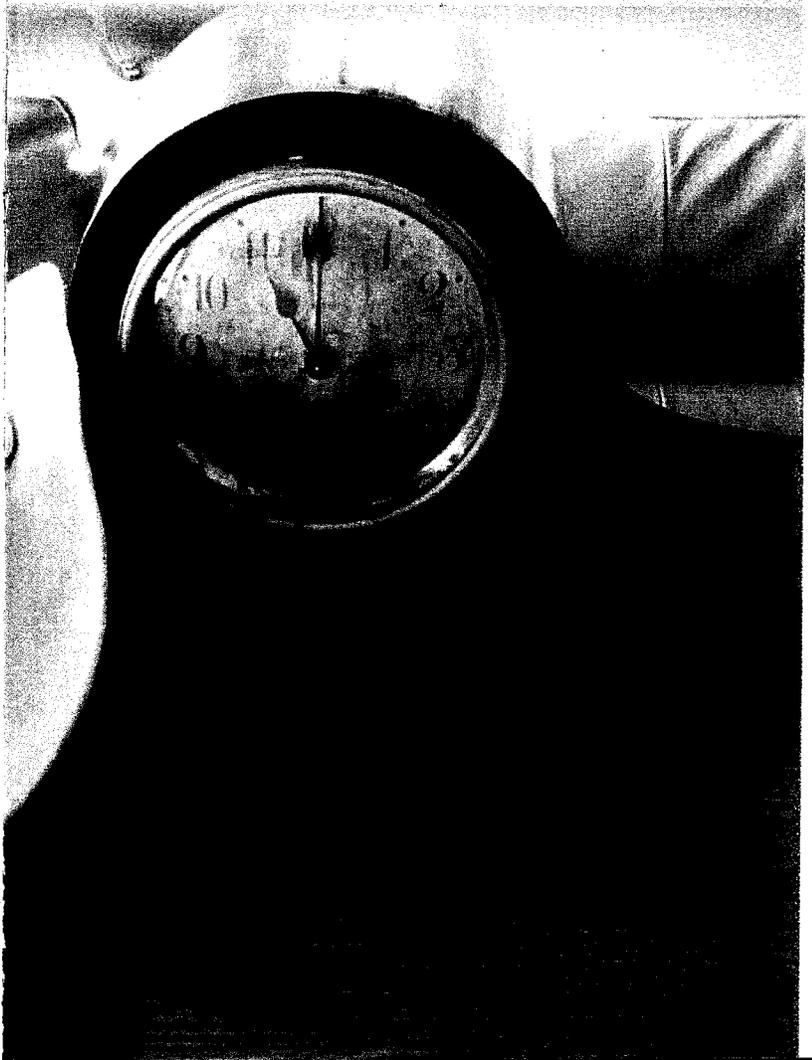
**The original exhibit is on file at
the Montana Historical Society
and may be viewed there**

**Montana Historical Society
Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena,
MT 59620-1201
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Scanning by: Susie Hamilton

EXHIBIT K1
DATE 1/9/07
HB 2

*The Housing
Montana
Fund: an
investment in
Montana's
economic
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Challenges

Lack of work force and low-income housing is widespread across our state, presenting significant barriers to the economic growth of Montana's families and communities.

- **Between 1998 and 2003, average household income rose about 10%, while the average cost of a home rose about 50%. In some areas of Montana, housing prices have increased as much as 63%.**
- **Even those with median incomes have been priced out of the homeownership market in many parts of Montana.**
- **In 2006, the median cost of a home in Whitefish was over \$306,000, more than \$278,000 in Corvallis, and \$178,000 in Billings.**
- **According to the 2006 Northwest Job Gap Study, the living wage for Montana family that includes single adult with two children is \$19.98/hour. Just 16% of all Montana jobs pay this well.**
- **The Montana Chamber of Commerce reports that worker shortages and lack of affordable housing for workers are universal issues with Montana's business community.**
- **Montanans with very low incomes such as seniors, persons with disabilities, and single parent families, pay rents that far exceed 50% of their monthly incomes.**
- **Seniors and other persons with disabilities need accessible, affordable stable housing to maintain independent living in the community.**