EXHIBIT 5
DATE 2/1/07
HB 2

CASCADE COUNTY

Jan. 31, 2007

Natural Resources Joint Subcommittee
House (406) 444-4825, Senate (406) 444-4875

RE: Permanent Funding for Missouri River Conservation District

Honorable Senators and Representatives,

Please don't cut the Vocal Chords...

of our Missouri River. I'm dead serious. The Missouri River Conservation District is like the voice of this great River. I have relied upon the District, with its intimate knowledge of what is good for the Missouri, many times in the past year.

Specifically, I have relied on the District to articulate threats to the Missouri River from sediment loads coming from Malmstrom AFB storm water through the Whitmore Ravine. This statewide organization packs a more powerful punch than we locals do on our own. Additionally, Cascade County is home to two National Priority Superfund sites that drain mining waste into the Missouri. We rely on the MRCD to "speak up" for the Missouri in these struggles as well. I urge you to permanently fund the Missouri River Conservation District. It is a logical clearinghouse of information and advocacy for this 700-mile lifeline of our State.

Sincerely,

Peggy Beltrone

Peggy Beltrone, Commissioner
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