



EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 01/24/07  
HB 133

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*Testimony*  
*arrived*  
*by mail*  
*in my*  
*office*  
*01/24/07*  
*DAB*

*January 18, 2006*

*Dee Borknecht*  
*Secretary*  
*House Committee on State Administration*

*Dee,*

*I am sorry I forgot to leave a copy of my testimony*  
*with you this morning. Please find it attached here.*

*I have also enclosed a copy of a list of my Commissioners,*  
*please share it with the State Administration Committee*  
*if they want it.*

*Thank you very much for your*  
*help!*

*Sincerely,*

*Darlene Staffeldt*  
*State Librarian*

Chairman Himmelberger, Members of the Committee for the record my name is Darlene Staffeldt and I am your State Librarian. I want to thank Representative Sesso for carrying this House Bill 133 for us.

MCA 22-1-325—22-1-331, also called the 'Information Access Montana Act', has helped Montana libraries by strengthening their ability to provide quality library content and services to their communities.

Since this Act was written in 1989, the emergence of the Internet has changed our communities and changed how libraries work with one another. These proposed revisions to the Act remain true to the original intent of the law—That is, to encourage Montana libraries to share resources. These revisions broaden the Act, allowing the State Library Commission to remain faithful to the original intent of this legislation while improving library services statewide by means unavailable fifteen years ago.

These revisions to the Act will allow the State Library Commission to help libraries get more library materials into Montanans' hands, quicker, more conveniently.

Looking at the legislation:

Page 1, section 1 (3) added a definition of "fulfillment" and (5) define "statewide information access program".

Page 2, section 2 22-1-328, "State interlibrary loan program"—Modern resource sharing practices include the time-tested practice of 'interlibrary loan' (one library borrowing materials from another), but include a variety of

other practices as well. Modifying this section to provide the Commission increased flexibility to encourage increasingly user-driven, automated, and collaborative resource sharing strategies, and will help libraries get more materials, to more Montanans, more conveniently, faster, and for a significantly less cost per delivered item.

Page 2, section 3 22-1-329 "State multi-library card" was written to require participation of all Montana's public libraries. The State Library's proposed changes make participation voluntary, and open participation to academic, institutional, school, and special libraries (as well as public libraries). Libraries are increasingly collaborative ventures, and this collaboration increasingly includes all types of libraries. These proposed changes make it easier for libraries to work together toward the goal of improving access to information to all Montana's library users.

Good library service is a critical component of educational excellence, healthy communities, and sustainable economic and community development. Strong towns have strong libraries; the State Library Commission believes these proposed changes to statute will result in better and cost-effective library programs and practices, which in turn will improve access to information for all Montanans.

I would appreciate your support of HB 133. I will be available to respond to any questions you might have. Thank you.

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# Montana State Library Commissioners

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*This group meets every other month in Helena, at least once a year they try to meet elsewhere in the state so they can visit local libraries. Next meeting is scheduled for February 14th at the State Library.*