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EXHIBIT 7  
DATE 1.23.07  
HB 289

## House Bill 289 – Earned Income Tax Credit

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

I would like to voice my support for House Bill 289 that would create a refundable a State Earned Income Tax Credit.

I represent WEEL, Working for Equality and Economic Liberation. We are a statewide non-profit made up of low-income Montanans and those who support us. We are a grassroots organization providing direct advocacy and support for our low-income neighbors.

WEEL supports the creation of a state Earned Income Tax Credit because our members are low-income Montanans who deserve their fair share of tax breaks. Governor Schweitzer has proposed a tax rebate that would give each Montana home owner a one-time refund of \$400 regardless of their income level. We believe that low-income Montanans deserve their fair share back as well.

Statistically, Earned Income Tax Credits are the surest way to put money back in the hands of those who need it the most and help lift them out of poverty. It is imperative to give our working poor an opportunity to build assets, save money, and break the cycle of poverty. Almost three-quarters of those who would be eligible for this credit make less than \$20,000 a year. We have a rare opportunity to support our *working* families in their efforts to build economic stability.

Mr. Chair and members of the committee we believe that an Earned Income Tax Credit would help low-income families across Montana. Please support House Bill 289.

Thank you.

Susan Kidd  
Organizer/Advocate

Olivia Riutta  
Policy Advisor

**Working for Equality and Economic Liberation**