

2901 FOURTH AVENUE NORTH
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

9 MARCH 2007 SENATE *Natural Resource*

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 3-9-07

BILL NO. HJ20

MONTANA STATE SENATE
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE
HELENA, MONTANA

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MY NAME IS DAN HUESTIS. OUR FAMILY FARMS AT THE EAST END OF GREAT FALLS.

WE FARM THE CROPLANDS SURROUNDING WHITMORE RAVINE.

WE HAVE FARMED IN THIS AREA FOR 65 YEARS.

NEVER HAVE WE WITNESSED SUCH DAMAGE FROM EROSION. IT IS UNPRECEDENTED.

I URGE YOU TODAY TO SUPPORT HJ20, WHITMORE RAVINE EROSION MITIGATION.

YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS RESOLUTION IS NOT A NEGATIVE MESSAGE. IT IS, IN FACT,

A VERY POSITIVE CALL FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE WITH

THE WHITMORE RAVINE TASK FORCE WHICH COMPRISES ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

ON BEHALF OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS, THAT IS TO SAY ALL WITNESSES, TO THE TERRIBLE

EROSION DESTRUCTION OF WHITMORE RAVINE, WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR

EFFORTS TO BRING RESTORATION TO THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION.

NO ONE CAN IMAGINE THAT NEARLY A HALF MILLION TONS OF SEDIMENT HAVE BEEN

DUMPED INTO THE MISSOURI RIVER FROM THIS ENVIRONMENTAL NIGHTMARE.

WHEN WE SEED WINTER WHEAT IN THE FALL, WE STAY WELL AWAY FROM THE

PRECIPITOUS DROP-OFF INTO THE ERODED COULEE. BY SPRING, OUR SEEDED ROWS

GO OFF INTO SPACE WHERE THE LAND WAS BEFORE!

YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS RESOLUTION ALLOWS THE CASCADE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO DO THEIR DUTY AS REQUIRED BY MONTANA STATE LAW...THAT IS CONSERVE AND PROTECT THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THIS GREAT STATE. THE LAND AND THE MISSOURI RIVER AT WHITMORE ARE IN THE BALANCE.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES HAVE RECOGNIZED THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THIS THIS EROSION.

THEY INCLUDE THE CASCADE COUNTY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. SEN.'S JOE TROPILA AND DON RYAN HAVE BOTH PERSONALLY SEEN THE WHITMORE RAVINE AND HAVE WORKED TO BRING THIS PROBLEM TO THE PUBLIC'S AWARENESS

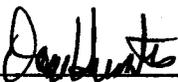
CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER PEGGY BELTRONE IS ON RECORD IN HER SUPPORT.

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT. YOUR RESOLUTION WILL GREATLY ASSIST THEIR EFFORTS.

WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP, WE CAN BUILD THE CONSENSUS NECESSARY TO BEGIN THE EFFORTS TO MITIGATE FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND RESTORE THE LAND AND MISSOURI RIVER WATERCOURSE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP IN THIS AND YOUR OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.

YOURS TRULY,



DAN HUESTIS
ZOLLER FARMS