

Brandon T Fadely
House Bill 252
House Judiciary Committee
February 16, 2009

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 2/16/09
HB 252

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am Brandon Fadely from Stevensville. I was raised in Stevensville and was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout and have earned my Eagle Scout award last Spring.

As a Boy Scout I am very concerned about this bill and the effect it will have on the use of City and County and State public land by the Boy Scouts in their camping and all activities that help young men to grow and develop talents that serve us well for life.

I just wanted to say how much that this program has affected my life. Without the scouting program I would not have been the leader that I am today. In high school I was the junior class president then the student body president the following year. I could not have planned the numerous activities and fund raisers that I did with out all of the leadership training that I had in the scouting program. The Eagle Scout rank is a rank that is very difficult to obtain, this rank requires one to plan and carry out a project that benefits the community in some way. Without this project the rank of Eagle Scout could not be obtained.

My brother Dallas Fadely became an Eagle Scout by doing an Eagle Project to build a covered picnic area in a Stevensville City Park to memorialize two Pilots who were killed on Little St. Joe Peak in Ravalli County while fighting our forest fires. The picnic area included a large plaque nearby that told the story of these heroes. He also had built and erected a concrete picnic table at the trail head to the peak with a memorial plaque inserted into the table so that people would know that two men gave their lives in our service.

My Eagle project was to restore a stage that was in disrepair at the Stevensville School which is school or local government property. To replace the curtain and repair and paint the stage was at considerable cost, after extensive fund raising and even more donations, including minimal funds from the school, I was able to make the stage a place that could be enjoyed by the community and the school.

My brother Colton is now starting his Eagle Scout project and plans to refurbish and repair the Stevensville Town pool.

In order to do an Eagle Project a Scout has to get the signed approval of the agency or government entity in order to get it approved through the Eagle Board. I would bet hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of work is donated by hundreds and hundreds of Montanans and businesses in Montana every year.

The way I read Sections 14, 15 and 16 of this bill, local governments could no longer allow the Boy Scouts of America, or any other youth group or church which does not hire homosexuals to be our leaders, to use government parks, picnic areas, forests, etc. They would not be able to enter into agreements with an Eagle Scout for a project.

I don't think Montana people would be happy at all with this bill. Please table it right now so that Scouts will be able to serve their communities.

Thank you.
Brandon Fadely
205 W Second St
Stevensville MT 59870
(406) 777-2617