

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1-30-09
115

MONTANA RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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DATE: 1/29/09
TO: **Montana House Taxation**
FROM: Dave Puyear
SUBJECT: **HB 115**

Due to conflicts with other hearings and meetings the Montana Rural Education Association (MREA) submits this testimony in support of HB 115 sponsored by Rep. French.

MREA supports HB 115 and the new cell phone equipment and service across much of rural Montana that this legislation would encourage and foster.

Members of the House Taxation Committee should be aware that in representing rural schools and the children and communities we serve in areas of vast distance across our state, **MREA considers this issue critical and rising to the level of a safety issue for many of our constituents.**

In respect for the committee, MREA will be brief, but wishes to make it very clear the strong support that we offer to this measure. We encourage committee members to contact us at any time in regards to questions you may have regarding our perspective on this important issue and the legislation currently before the committee.

Dave Puyear