BUSINESS & LABOR
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 3-4-09
BILL NO. HB 80

Chairman Balyeat and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice support for **HB 80**. My name is Rick Reisig. I am a CPA from Great Falls, and I am presently the Chairman of the Montana Board of Public Accountants, which is a regulatory board under the Montana Department of Labor & Industry. I served on a task force made up of members of the State Board and members of the Montana Society of CPAs to draft the portions of HB 80 dealing with the accounting profession.

The Montana Board of Public Accountants **supports** this bill and respectfully urges the bill be moved forward with a favorable recommendation from the Committee.

The accounting profession portions of this bill have commonly been labeled "mobility" legislation. A form of this legislation has been passed, or is being passed, in 49 out of the 50 states. In a nutshell, it allows CPAs to move freely from state to state to serve their clients without having to obtain a license, or some type of practice privilege, in each of those states. Today's technology provides greater and greater opportunity for interstate commerce to take place, thus necessitating a uniformity of legislation between the states to provide for fluid practice across state lines, while still providing protection for the public.

From a regulatory standpoint, the Board of Public Accountants supports this bill because:

1) It will provide us with automatic jurisdiction over **all** CPAs practicing in Montana, enabling us to discipline out-of-state licenses if necessary, whether or not they are licensed in Montana, enhancing our ability to protect the Montana public.
2) It provides clarification for CPAs as to when a license is required to practice in our state.
3) It allows the public greater access to the CPA of their choice in a more cost-efficient, and time-efficient, manner.

In late 2007, the U.S. Department of the Treasury established the Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession (ACAP). One of the many recommendations this committee provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury was to suggest Congressional action be taken forcing states to adopt "mobility" type legislation if a state has not adopted its own legislation by December 31, 2010. Our Board feels HB 80 meets the recommended mobility provisions suggested by ACAP, in a way that benefits both the Montana CPA and the clients they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions any of you may have.

Rick Reisig

Rick Reisig, CPA
Chairman, Montana Board of Public Accountants