

SB249

SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 1/27/09

BILL NO. 217 SB249

Shalom Drive

MT 59923

Libby,

January 23, 2009

Honorable Aubyn Curtis, Senator
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT

Dear Senator Curtis:

I wanted to come to Helena to testify on behalf of Larry Chain, in regards to his acquisition of a drivers license, however, for family health reasons I am not able to. I request that this letter will be accepted as my testimony.

I came to Libby in 1983, as Forest Supervisor of the Kootenai National Forest. I served in that position until my retirement in late December, 1989. Following retirement I was an environmental consultant for several years.

During my time as Forest Supervisor and since my retirement, some 19 years ago, I have become very familiar with the people and activities in Lincoln County, particularly South Lincoln County. I served eight years on the St. Johns Lutheran Hospital board, here in Libby, and have belonged to several local business and social clubs. I have watched the local business community respond to good times and bad.

I have known Larry Chain and his family for about ten years. He did some work on my house and I purchased a wood stove from him. I have found him to be a very skilled, competent and reliable businessman. Most of all, I have found him to be very honest and trustworthy. I believe strongly that he and his family have been a welcome addition to our community.

About eight years ago I bought a wood stove from Obadiah's Wood Stoves, Larry's business. About six years later, a part in the stove failed. The stove had a lifetime warranty. Larry attempted to repair the stove and when the repair did not perform to his liking, he insisted on replacing the entire stove at no charge. That is the kind of person he is, and, I believe, that is one reason he has been so successful here in Lincoln County.

I am fully aware of Larry's past. He has paid his debt to society and, I believe, he should now receive all of the benefits that society has to offer. He and his family are an outstanding addition to our community, in my opinion.

Sincerely,

Jim Rathbun