EXHIBIT 9
DATE 3/17/11
SB 216

Mr. Chairman, Members of
the House Ag Committee

My name is Kristi Blazer, and on this bill, I am representing myself, and I support SB216 to designate the Code of the West as the Code of Montana.

My interest in this bill is as a Montanan, as a lobbyist, - interested in this process, and as an affectionado of Western movies which have always inspired me.

Why do I support this bill?

Because reading the Code of the West, reading the books Cowboy Ethics and Cowboy Values, and rewatching many of the movies used to illustrate the Code

→ made me want to strive even harder to be a better person.

The way I see it, if there are any of our legislators who are also inspired, the bill has been worth bringing.

As I sat in the Hall waiting for this bill & indicated I was a supporter, another lobbyist asked if I needed Senator Peterson's vote.

Truth is — I don't need his vote at this time. The Bills I have been working on are all past that point

So ~~this~~ ~~is~~ my support of this bill is not based on any desire for a return favor which would not occur anyway w/ Sen. Peterson.

Instead, it is because I believe in the value of the Code of the West and how it could benefit this body.

I may be called an idealist — and that is okay with me. Striving for ideals gets a person further than being stuck in pragmatism.

And I respect Senator Peterson for his ability to stick to his principles despite that this bill has been criticized.

Sen. Peterson has been living each day w/ courage to face his critics - on what he thought was a valuable idea

In addition, Sen. Peterson has been committed to finishing what he started

There are other principles in the Code that Sen. Peterson has exemplified, but in order for me to talk less & say more - I will stop here

I respect Sen. Peterson for bringing SB 216, for continuing with the bill and I hope you all will favor the bill with a favorable vote so that we can finish what was started for all the right reasons. Kent Blaz