EXHIBIT 8
DATE 2/14/2011
HB 347

Testimony in favor of HB347

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING A K-12 PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION IN CIVIC EDUCATION; REQUIRING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO DEVELOP, ADMINISTER, AND SUPERVISE THE PROGRAM AND RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION BASIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM; AND AMENDING SECTION 20-2-121, MCA."

Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Roger Nummerdor and I live in Helena. I am here representing myself, and I strongly support HB 347.

James Madison, our fourth President, and sometimes referred to as "the father of the Constitution" stated "A well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people." George Washington stated "a primary object...should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? What duty more pressing...than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?"

I was very fortunate to be born and educated in Lewistown, where I was taught Civics by numerous teachers who knew how to get it into my thick skull. When I joined the Navy and we raised our hands and swore an oath to uphold the Constitution, I was astonished at the number of recruits from the Eastern seaboard states who knew very little of our country's history and or how our government came about. I feel this is happening now in our Montana schools. I saw it in in the mid 90's when my son came home from high school and asked me why I had told him the US had lost the war in Vietnam because he was being taught that we had not.

When I have asked teachers why students are not taught much history about the founding fathers or our early history, I have been told there is not enough time for that much history. I disagree and because of answers like that it shows me that we need this bill and I ask you to strongly support HB 347.