EXHIBIT 6
DATE 1/19/2011
HB 106

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January 19, 2011

Testimony of Judge Bob Wood, Helena Municipal Court
In support of HB 106: To Create a Statewide 24/7 Sobriety Program

When I initially heard about the 24/7 Sobriety Program, I have to admit to having some misgivings about it. I was skeptical that it would make a difference. I was skeptical about what appeared to be a complicated process, but now I am one of the program's strongest supporters.

As a judge, it was extremely frustrating to order repeat DUI offenders to abstain from drinking alcohol and going to bars as a condition of bond, and have them basically thumb their noses at the court. With no means of ensuring compliance, offenders often ignored the conditions of bond unless they were caught again, committing another crime, and jailed.

The 24/7 Sobriety Program has given me an effective way to hold DUI offenders accountable. If they thumb their noses at the court, they very quickly find themselves looking at me again from the other side of the bench or on video from the jail.

Now I tell offenders who don't show up for a test or who violate the conditions of their bond by drinking, "The more you fail, the harder we're going to make it on you. Or really, the harder you're making this on yourself."

In my experience thus far, most participants never fail a breath test, and those who do, only do so once.

This program works. It's an option judges in other Montana communities need.