EXHIBIT 5
DATE 3/9/2011
SB

Testimony regarding SB151.

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Mr. Chair and members of the committee, my name is Alex E Ward and I'm not new to crime prevention efforts. As a Bellevue, WA police officer/detective for 25 years I was active in many successful crime prevention efforts. I am also the former president of the Washington State Crime Prevention Association and received a Lifetime Crime Prevention Practitioner award from them in 1995. I am also the former president of the International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners and was their Practitioner of the year in 1994.

Those of us who have been crime prevention practitioners since the 70's know that identity theft is nothing new. Unfortunately, however with the internet, little security for credit and debit cards as well as people who carry proprietary information home on laptops, many people fall victims to identity theft each year. many whose quality of life is forever altered as a result.

I am, however living proof that even if you are a victim of identity theft, you don't have to lose anything but time. I've been a victim seven times (four in Montana), to my knowledge, but by knowing what to do once victimized I was able to neutralize my losses. This is especially easy in Montana since the legislature passed the Identity Theft Passport bill and provided Montanans with the cheapest, most comprehensive Security Freeze Legislation in the nation.

Only one catch – potential victims need to hear the crime prevention message in time to make it work for them. Unfortunately most government agencies and nonprofit organizations don't have sufficient outreach money to wage campaigns to reach potential victims and legislation hardly ever provides sufficient outreach support to assure that people know about the legislation.

By supporting Montana legislation that would require the criminals who have created the need for crime prevention training to pay for it - $5 fee when convicted of a crime – we could make a substantial effort to get the message to those before they were victimized.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 151.