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EXHIBIT 17  
DATE 3/15/2011  
SB 185

March 15, 2011

House Judiciary Committee  
Montana State Capitol  
Helena, Montana

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Re: SB 185 – death penalty

Montana's prosecutors have acted responsibly whenever they have sought the death penalty. Montana's prosecutors have sought the death penalty only in cases of the worst and most inexcusable acts of murder.

During the hearing on SB 185 the bill's proponents may offer descriptions of death row exonerations. All such exonerations have occurred in other states. Wrongful murder convictions should serve as an indictment of the justice system in states where such wrongful convictions were secured. Injustices that occurred in other states should not serve to eliminate the possibility of a death sentence in Montana.

Ted Bundy serves as a good example of why prosecutors must have the ability to seek death as a punishment for murder. After Bundy was convicted and sentenced to death, and in an attempt to gain leniency, Bundy admitted to other murders that he had committed. It was only because he faced the ultimate punishment that Bundy gave his limited cooperation to those seeking to solve Bundy's many murders. Bundy deserved execution. Those persons executed in Montana since 1976 have deserved execution as well.

Montana law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to protect us. Anyone who murders a Montana law enforcement officer should face the possibility of a sentence of death. Please table SB 185.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Lambert", written over a horizontal line.

Marty Lambert  
Gallatin County Attorney