EXHIBIT 3
DATE 4-5-11
SB 417

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Cascade County

Testimony before House Local Government Committee

SB 417 – Commissioner Joe Briggs

April 5, 2011

Chairman MacLaren and members of the committee, my name is Joe Briggs and I appear before you today in my role as a Cascade County Commissioner, on behalf of the Cascade County Commission, the Central Montana Defense Alliance and as the Chairman of the Montana Association of Counties - Community, Economic Development and Labor Committee.

The military presence in Montana is crucial to each of us and yet we sometimes overlook their value. For example, Malmstrom Air Force Base currently represents one third of our nation's total ICBM Nuclear Deterrence capability and has been an integral part of our nation's strategic defense since the first missile went on alert on July 27, 1962. Prior to being deemed his "Ace in the Hole" by President Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Malmstrom had already been proudly serving the citizens of this country since 1939 in a variety of ferrying and training roles. In addition to the active duty Air Force personnel deployed across the 23,500 square miles of missile field, Montana also is proud to support a number of guard and reserve units that other speakers will address more eloquently than I.

All of these military units have several things in common, they are each a critical component of our national defense, they are each a vital part of our economy and they all have growing concerns about certain types of development around their operations. Malmstrom alone has an estimated annual economic impact to our state of over $324,000,000. They directly employ almost 3,200 military members, over 700 Civilian Department of Defense personnel and 750 independent contractors. The military funded construction projects both on the base and throughout the missile field employ countless other Montana workers and help drive the economies of many rural communities.

Despite the importance of these facilities, Montana is among the states that have no statute empowering local governments to enact land use regulations in proximity to military installations. Passage of SB 417 will correct that shortcoming by creating a new section of code modeled after the familiar 67-7-200 series which provides for limited land use regulation surrounding our airports. This legislation is an outgrowth of a Joint Land Use Study currently under way in Central Montana and is a key element of the implementation phase of the Study.

The Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) in which all seven counties of the missile field are active participants is designed to identify potential land use conflicts around Malmstrom's 165 remote facilities (15 Missile Alert Facilities & 150 Launch Facilities) and provide tools for avoidance and mitigation. The study will provide each county government with a list of potential concerns as

well as a menu of potential remedies and avoidance techniques. However, in order to be proactive, the counties also need tools to implement those avoidance techniques that they believe are appropriate for their area. These tools will be provided by passage of SB 417. Without such a set of tools, the rural counties will have great difficulty in implementing the results of the JLUS and will likely not be able to avoid future land use conflicts with the military missions.

In summary, SB 417 does not require local governments to implement any land use restrictions around military operations, it merely provides a set of tools should they decide to do so. The JLUS also requires no action by the local governments; it merely provides them with a list of concerns and a menu of options to avoid future problems. This bill simply allows a local government a set of tools which can be used around Military installations very much like the tools we already utilize around our airports. This bill also serves as a sign to our service men and women that we appreciate their efforts and that we are willing to assist in making sure they can train and execute their missions here in Montana safely and effectively.

Members of the committee I appreciate your attention this afternoon and ask for a do pass vote on SB 417. I would be happy to answer any questions at the appointed time.

Prepared by Cascade County Commissioner Joe Briggs

Notes:

Local Governments actively involved in the JLUS process.

Cascade County
Choteau County
Fergus County
Judith Basin County
Lewis and Clark County
Teton County
Wheatland County
City of Great Falls