

EXHIBIT # 3
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Montana Preservation Alliance, 120 Reeders Alley, Helena
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Testimony SB59

Montana Preservation Alliance saves and protects Montana's historic places, traditional landscapes and cultural heritage.

Sometimes you hear testimony on bills that reflect the views of special interest groups, and today I stand before you as a member of an interest group in Montana that is more than 460,000 strong. We are here now and have always been, women of Montana: working and loving and raising and building through all the generations.

I have lived and worked around this Montana capitol building for three decades, and have to say without exaggeration, that every time I walk into this capitol I am proud. I think ours is just outstanding. I was really moved when the donors to the capitol restoration included schoolchildren from all across Montana who collected pennies to give to the cause. I was delighted to learn that the barrel vault could be restored because Charlie and Sue Bovey had kept those beautiful glass panels out of the dump, holding them for many years until they found their way back home.

Their unselfish acts remind us that our Montana Capitol is so much more than just a state government building. It is a state *house* that belongs to all of us. Under this roof, together, we build a strong future. In these chambers, our history is enacted and you all are front and center on that stage. In the halls of our state *house*, we hang portraits and murals and bronzes of the people who make up the big family of Montanans.

Through all time, women have been a part of Montana's story. Our history brims over with stories of women and the imprint that their hands had in shaping communities. The stories are often poignant: teachers on wind-swept prairies who taught in one room schools, women on high plains who tanned buffalo hides for tipis and the fur trade, nuns in mining towns who founded hospitals, young mothers who guided explorers, young girls who flew planes during World War II to ferry aircraft during the war effort.

Honestly it will be hard to fit it into one mural. But I can tell you it will mean a lot to mothers and daughters and grandmothers all around the state to have this bill to create a capitol women's mural go forward. I hope you will pass it and in the belief that you will, and to honor all of the children of today and tomorrow, I would like to donate the first one hundred pennies toward that goal.