EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2-18-2011
HB 579

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February 18, 2011

House Transportation Committee
Montana House of Representatives
State Capitol
P.O. Box 201702
Helena, MT 59620-17012

RE: HB 579 Driver Testing Program

Dear House Transportation Committee Members:

I urge your yes vote on HB 579 allowing employer testing program for commercial drivers.

This bill provides for third party testing of commercial drivers by private businesses; subject to administrative oversight and licensing by the Montana Department of Motor Vehicles.

We see this bill as streamlining the commercial driver licensing process that has become overly cumbersome to employers as well as employees. Beach Transportation has, on many occasions, experienced a three-week wait to schedule a driving test with DMV and because of these long delays, we have lost many good drivers who simply could not afford not afford to wait for the DMV test.

Montana is not alone in allowing such third party testing. It is my understanding that this is done in California and other states which has met with excellent success.

In Montana, about 67,000 students ride to and from school, annually traveling 18,198,856 miles in 2,100 school buses. In Missoula, Beach Transportation has provided school kids with safe, reliable transportation services for over 70 years. I represent the third generation of my family to be involved in school bus transportation. Needless to say, safe transportation of school children is a top priority to all carriers in Montana and across the nation. We see nothing in this bill that would compromise that commitment to safely.

Thank you and I again urge you to vote yes on HB 579.

Sincerely,

Greg D. Beach
Vice President