

EXHIBIT 53
DATE 3/11/11
NO. HB 161

To the Senate Judiciary Committee

March 11, 2011

My name is Tara Gregorich. I am from Bozeman and I oppose House Bill 161. I am a medical marijuana patient and supporter. I am also proudly able to help other patients by being employed in this industry.

After being diagnosed with fibromyalgia and cervical spondylosis I was faced with a challenging decision to take expensive prescription drugs for my pain. Medical marijuana offers an inexpensive, locally grown and natural alternative. I consider myself a responsible patient. My use of cannabis is limited to a few times a month when I am in serious need of relief. This option fits my lifestyle and budget and effectively alleviates my pain without the harmful side effects and dependency issues of taking daily prescription drugs.

As a graduate of Montana State University with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Horticulture Science, I had the unique opportunity to remain in Montana after graduation and actually work in my field of choice. It is fulfilling knowing that my work helps so many people. Patients of course, but also many other local businesses and employees benefit from medical marijuana. Just this last week we called in an electrician who expressed he was grateful to come help because he had not worked yet that week and business was so slow.

A repeal of medical marijuana in Montana would not only go against what the voters have voiced, but would negatively affect citizens statewide. Thank you.