

Exhibit No. 6

Date 3-18-2011

Bill No. HB 180

**HB 180
HEARING TESTIMONY
VOTER REGISTRATION
PATTY LOVAAS**

I offer my apologies for not being able to testify personally for this bill to revise the close of voter registration. I am therefore submitting this written testimony to be entered into the record in support of this bill.

For anyone to believe that Montana is immune to tricky and manipulation of elections is naïve at the least. The assurance of integrity in any election in a democratic society should be one of the top priorities of those who represent the electorate in adopting statutes. If the integrity of the process is compromised all constituents are disenfranchised.

I speak from experience on this matter. In the 2008 primary I was one of six republican candidates challenging Max Baucus in the primary. I attended many social gatherings across the State prior to the election. There was only one function which was attended by Bob Kelleher, one of the other republican candidates who on previous elections had been a democratic candidate.

When Mr. Kelleher was overwhelmingly nominated to challenge Mr. Baucus in the general election as the republican candidate everyone in the State was disenfranchised. This is so because more important than the individual candidate is an active debate on the issues of the day. As a result of this seemingly erroneous election result I decided to challenge the independent candidate statutes to give the electorate of Montana a choice.

In soliciting petition signatures to register as an independent candidate, one of the conditions I placed on the prospective petition signers was that they not have voted in the primary for either Mr. Baucus or Mr. Kelleher. After receiving several hundred signatures in 6 counties, it was noted that not one voter admitted to voting for Mr. Kelleher.

In Granite County I had sufficient signatures to challenge the count. After obtaining details of the election results, I was shocked to see the voting pattern. Some of the facts which I uncovered included:

24 registered voters apparently residing at the "Project Vote Smart" address. There are only 2 persons who actually live there and neither of those are registered Montana voters.

Philpsburg has no physical mail delivery and thus all residents have PO boxes. There are over 1,100 boxes rented. Among the absentee ballots cast in this primary were voters from New York, Florida, Arizona and California.

In Hall, Montana I had enough petition signatures to canvass all voters in precinct #9. Mr. Kelleher won the republican nomination in this small precinct with 17 of 51 republican votes. On canvassing the individual voters, I confirmed that 36 voters cast votes for other republican candidates. Three voters who supposedly cast votes stated they did not vote and were out of the State at the time of the election. This leaves a maximum of 12 votes which could have been cast for Mr. Kelleher and yet the official count for Mr. Kelleher in this precinct was 17.

In this instance the manipulation was very well organized and very sophisticated. The major flaw in this well organized and orchestrated plan to disenfranchise citizens of their core constitutional right was the fact that there were six candidates; with one or two candidates this manipulation who have been very difficult to verify.

In conclusion, in a democratic society every individual should be assured that their vote is just as important as every other registered voter and validly counts. Public officials should provide safeguards to assure that only residents of Montana vote for their preferred representative. Public officials are entrusted with the responsibility of assuring the electorate that the democratic voting system has adequate safeguards to prevent voter and election fraud. The vote must represent the true voice of the people. Without a valid democratic elective process, the critical issues which face our democratic form or government are irrelevant.

"The liberties of our country, the freedoms of our civil Constitution are worth defending at all hazards; it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors. They purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood. It will bring a mark of everlasting infamy on the present generation – enlightened as it is – if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of designing men." -Samuel Adams"