EXHIBIT 6
DATE 3-12-13
SB 94

Thank you, Chairman Randall, and members of the House Agriculture Committee. I am Senator Dee Brown from SD2, which is in Flathead County. I refer to it as the huckleberry and grizzly capital of our state.

SB94 came about because of an incident a year ago involving home canners in the Flathead. There was a big newspaper article about a canning swap meet to be held at the Great Northern Brewery in Whitefish. I immediately contacted my home canning friends and suggested we take some of our goods to exchange.

On the appointed evening we loaded our applesauce, pickles, beets and dried fruits and took them to the exchange. Upon entering the brewery the young bartender told us the event had been cancelled because of the health department's concerns.

We left and mumbled about it on the way home so I decided to hold a canning exchange last January in our cabin at the campground. It was on private property, by private invitation so the pickle police couldn't interfere. Several home canners came, we exchanged goods and had a great time.

Many exchanges happen across the United States between willing participants. Their products are not for sale to the general public but meant to celebrate the 'fruits' of our gardening labor.

What could be better for the body than a freshly-picked cucumber put in a brine and water bathed for winter consumption? This bill targets high acid foods, dried fruits and vegetables, along with home brew, a growing cottage industry in our state.

Please consider passage of SB94 for all the gardeners and home canners across Montana. This would be a fun festival of like-minded people to share products and recipes to others who appreciate home grown and canned foods. Thanks for your consideration.

Dee Brown
March 12, 2013