

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 3-26-13
HB HR 4

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I am writing in support of HR4. I do not support Senator Tester's bill for a multitude of reasons. Just to name a couple of them, this wilderness bill will close hundreds of miles of trails that have been multiple use forever. This bill will have a negative impact on the economy, which will effect businesses, especially in Beaverhead County. When there are few motorized user sportsman (hunters, fishermen, motorcyclists, snowmobilers, trappers and to name a few) there is a huge decline in revenue to the local businesses. These businesses also help support the upkeep of their communities as well as their surrounding environments. The support comes in the way of tax revenue, volunteer help on many forest service trail projects, weed management and so on. I find this ironic that we are systematically destroying the mechanism that helps support and care for our communities, forest trails, etc. I speak of economics because I was a business owner in Wise River for 15 years and watched as the closures began to increase, outdoor opportunity began to decrease along with fewer and fewer and fewer people, which of course led to a decrease in revenue. I know as a fact the people who recreate in multiple use areas spend a lot more money than those that use wilderness areas. Or, could it be that the percentage of use in wilderness areas is 90-95% less than multiple use areas? I believe it's the latter.