

EXHIBIT 25
DATE 3-26-13
HB HR 4

March 24, 2013

Testimony: House Agriculture Committee Public Hearing, 3/26/13

RE: HR4

My name is Ruth Kopec and I am a voter in House District 70. However, Rep. Kerry White and House Resolution 4 do not represent my views on the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. This bill is an example of diverse interests recognizing a primary life lesson – you never get all you want.

As a consensus by conservation organizations, forest product mills, sportsmen, outdoor recreationists and business owners, the bill is amazing. In today's divided country, an agreement by such diverse interest groups on an issue as important as resource allocation is unusual. No group achieved all they wanted in negotiating this legislation. However, those who will find new jobs in the revitalized timber industry and who will enjoy the newly formed wilderness areas will appreciate the compromises made by all parties. In addition, this legislation guarantees access for motorized recreation, hunting, camping and fishing. It will ensure that water sources in Montana stay clean.

Recent polls show that over 70% of Montanans, including majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independent voters, support the balanced approach to forest management offered by FJRA. Sportsmen, motorized and non-motorized recreationists support FJRA. I hope the Committee recognizes the benefits of this bill and votes against HR4. Thank you for your consideration.

Ruth Kopec
Gallatin County, MT