EXHIBIT 1
DATE 2/5/13
HB 168

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15 January 2013

Re: House Bill No. 168

Honorable House Judiciary Committee Chairman Kerns
Honorable Members of House Judiciary Committee

It was my desire to be with you to testify on this important bill today, but other demands make that impossible.

In Montana, and nationally, we find that a large number of impaired drivers are under the influence of alcohol, marijuana (THC) or a combination of both. Additionally involved can be prescription drugs.

Research indicates that approximately half of the alcohol impaired drivers who kill someone in a wreck are also under the influence of marijuana (THC), creating an even deadlier combination.

Such was the case with the young man who killed my wife, Judy Wang, in a horrific crash on I-90 near Warm Springs on 25 September 2009. Many of you knew and respected Judy for her tireless efforts on behalf of victims of crime, especially Domestic Violence and DUI. She stood before you to testify on numerous bills and to speak for victims of crime for many years. It was ironic that she, and all of Montana, became victim of one of those impaired drivers on that day.

In the case of the young man who killed Judy, although his blood test showed a significant level of THC, Montana did not and does not have a specific level set for what amount of THC in the blood constitutes being impaired for the purposes of driving. For alcohol impairment there are specific levels set and that is how it should be with THC.

HB 168 will provide one more tool for Montana and the law enforcement officers of Montana to use in our battle against impaired drivers and the carnage they wreak on society.

Please support and vote for HB 168.

Respectfully,

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