

EXHIBIT # 4

DATE 1/24/13

HB

HB 245

**The Dahlgrens**

**To:** Whom It May Concern  
**From:** Bill Dahlgren  
**Date:** January 24, 2013  
**Re:** HB 245

---

I am an active volunteer Park developer and manager in Missoula County, specifically for Big Sky Park. Please support HB #245 to give Missoula and other Counties the flexibility to designate County lands as dedicated Parks. It seems appropriate the local entities that are closest to the issues, the land uses and the public wishes make these decisions. Passage of HB #245 will provide a great opportunity to allow Missoula residents to secure the 160 acre Big Sky Park for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Dahlgren  
Citizen, Neighbor and Volunteer



House Bill #245  
Members of the House Government Committee

I am writing to let you know how valuable The Missoula Equestrian Park is to the community of Missoula and that I support House Bill #245.

The Missoula Equestrian Park, part of the Big Sky Park Complex, was established in 1985 and has been flourishing ever since due to countless local volunteers who hold the park near to their heart. Those who know it will always appreciate having such a special place to share with their friends and family. And those who don't soon will because The Missoula Horseman's Council, who is in charge of the park, is constantly working on educating Missoula as to its' location and many activities.

The park is truly a benefit to our youth who are always welcome to walk their dog, fly remote control airplanes, ride bikes and of course horses. The park is also a benefit to Montanans statewide because they enjoy schooling their horses and competing at the park in one of its' five beautiful arenas.

I am currently the Vice President of the Missoula Horseman's Council and have been a past board member for multiple years while also participating as a volunteer to help run events that financially benefit the park. The Missoula Equestrian park is a real gem, all of us whom are members and neighbors of the park truly appreciate your help in making it permanent open space so that the entire community may always have room to roam! Thank you for your time. Susan Drue Kerns

2122 Schilling Street  
Missoula, MT 59801  
January 23, 2013

House Bill #245  
Members of the House Government Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I write to express my support for House Bill #245, which if passed would allow the County Commissioners to designate appropriate areas as county park lands.

I have been involved as a volunteer with the Missoula Equestrian Park, part of the Big Sky Park Complex in Missoula, for many years. Since its inception, a very active and diverse group of citizens have worked to maintain the grounds, improving the area with close attention to small mammal and bird habitat, access for all, improved facilities and trails with the addition of irrigation, arenas, gazebos to provide shelter and a permanent latrine. All these things provide quality open space for the general public to enjoy free of charge.

As well as being a public park which is open to all, The Missoula Equestrian Park is a membership organization where equestrians of all disciplines can enjoy their equestrian sport in a safe and well-maintained area.

This park is equally available to non-equestrian groups for activities such as team bike practice and races, Easter Seal fundraisers, 5K runs, Missoula County Schools field activities and sports, Special Olympics activities, etc.

This area is used cooperatively by the general public and the MEP membership. Allowing the county commissioners to dedicate county land to public use as park land is a step to ensure that all our citizens can enjoy this and other parks in the future without threat of commercial development. Help us keep our open space!

Sincerely yours,



Christine Foster

Barbara,

Please convey to the Montana House members my sentiments:

I am a member of the Stewardship Committee managing approximately 60 acres of land for the County of Missoula. We have been trying to get said land dedicated as the "BIG SKY PARK." Please consider doing what is necessary, legislatively, which would allow for such permanent dedication. Thank you

Wally Sept P.O. Box 8602 Missoula, Montana 59807