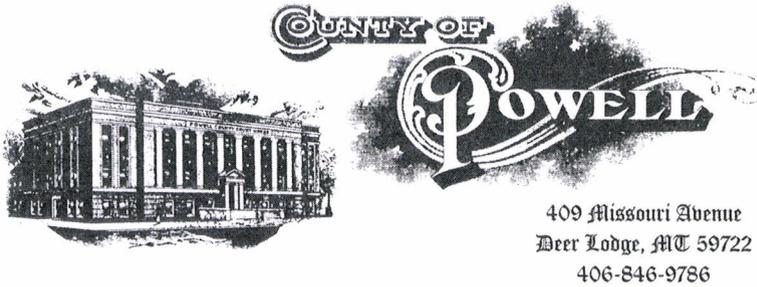


EXHIBIT # 13
DATE 1/29/13
HB 246



January 23, 2013

To: Local Government Committee
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

From: Powell County Commissioners
409 Missouri Avenue, Suite 202
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

RE: Powell County Opposition to House Bill 246

Dear Local Government Committee Chair and Members,

The Powell County Commissioners write to express our opposition to House Bill 246 entitled: "AN ACT REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH GROWTH POLICIES, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS, ZONING REGULATIONS, SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS, AND OTHER REGULATIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 76-1-605 AND 76-6-206, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

However well intentioned this bill may be, we believe conservation easements are an exercise of an individual landowner's private property rights and that existing statute provides adequate and appropriate local government review of conservation easements prior to recording.

Sincerely,


Cele Pohle,
Powell County Commissioner


Ralph E Mannix Jr.
Powell County Commissioner

