EXHIBIT 12
DATE 1/27/2015
HB 258

Testimony before the

Committee on Business & Labor

in Support of

HB258, Montana Benefit Corporation Legislation

Presented by, Chad Oster, IT Manager at West Paw Design

January 26, 2014

Chair Berry and Committee Members,

My name is Chad Oster and I am the IT Manager at West Paw Design. I'm here to show our support for HB 258 (Williams), Montana benefit corporation legislation. Benefit corporations are a new voluntary business form that gives the freedom to entrepreneurs and business owners to consider other factors in addition to profit when operating their businesses, while also providing greater clarity and accountability to investors and shareholders. Benefit corporation legislation can bring significant economic and social improvements to Montana without any financial cost to the state.

Since 1996, West Paw Design has been manufacturing eco-friendly and high-quality pet products in Montana. Currently based in Bozeman, West Paw Design's team of 80 employees are extremely proud that 100% of the products are sustainably manufactured in Montana.

We believe that businesses are one of the greatest forces for change and the best source of solutions for the issues that we face as a society. Montana should take advantage of this new business form that has been enacted into law in 26 states and the District of Columbia, including our neighbors Nevada and Utah and is under consideration in 15 more states during 2015, including Idaho and North Dakota. By providing the voluntary option of benefit corporations Montana can be that much more attractive for business development and ensure that we remain competitive.

Benefit corporation legislation is a great economic development tool for the state, because it does not cost the state any money to implement, does not affect existing corporations, is completely voluntary and does not provide any tax benefits. However, the legislation does provide businesses the freedom to expand their markets and provides the tools investors need to make wise investment decisions. Montana

needs additional tools to encourage business growth and benefit corporation legislation does this through encouraging the growth of the free market.

There is an estimated six (6) trillion dollars in social impact investment money in the marketplace today and benefit corporation legislation provides the tools by which to attract investments to Montana. Investors and business leaders across the country are increasingly seeking the clarity found in benefit corporation legislation and we should not miss the opportunity to pass legislation that will attract much needed investment capital to our communities.

Benefit corporation legislation can help Montana to attract businesses, jobs and investments to our great state. Please do not let Montana miss this opportunity; I seek your aye vote on HB 258.

Thank you,

Chad Oster