EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1/20/15
HB 43

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Nancy L. Schwend

January 18, 2015

State of Montana
House of Representatives
Judiciary Committee
Helena, MT

RE: HB 43

Dear Distinguished Members:

For years we have operated under the restraints of a very antiquated penal system. and the components of the whole. The Law and Justice Interim Committee has undergone the courageous and grueling task to humanize that system. They have heard horrific testimony from many and have taken action to correct the inadequacies that have become so blatantly obvious.

Having had a son in and out of the penal system for a number of years, I commend the Law & Justice Interim committee for having the wisdom and tenacity to thoroughly investigate the numerous entities and procedures of our penal system. Unless you have had the unfortunate and dehumanizing experience of having a loved one in the system, you cannot begin to comprehend the horrendous conditions to which they are subjected.

Yes, when you read the Missions Statements of the BOPP. DOC or, Probation and Parole, they sound very solid is there intent, however, I have a son in the system and it has only been since then that I realize that all of the mission statements with all of the politically correct sound bites are nothing less than pure propaganda, and it infuriates me. What is even more infuriating is that if you dare to question the board's decision there is serious retaliation. This is very serious malfunction of government and must be stopped. NOW! Once an inmate is incarcerated, he/she morphs from human being to animal status.

Our Governor is our Head of State, not the BOPP, and it is critical that he be restored his power under Article VI, Section of the Montana Constitution to grant clemency, whether it be by computation of sentence or pardon. The fact that the parole system has been totally ruled by

the BOPP at the discretion of their whims as a free -wheeling quasi- judicial branch absent of any oversight is abominable. They are making decisions over the lives of thousands of individuals every year....some of them our mothers, fathers and sons and daughters....and they are making those decisions in a most cavalier manner as exemplified in their decisions. BOPP has become known as the "God Squad" to those of us who have had to live with their very arbitrary and arrogant decisions. And that same MO has been very costly to the taxpayers of this state. The fiscal note attached to this is not merely $45,000 a year, but is further impacted by their being barred from becoming participating taxpayers and productive citizens. This would also alleviate the cost of caring for their families through our social service entities. The positive fiscal impact the passing of this bill would be extremely significant considering the incarceration cost of $46,000 per inmate per year; however, the humanitarian impact would be far greater, by reuniting families, and allowing inmates to prove they can be productive citizen.

Barry Beach has become the Poster Chile for this bill of late, and rightfully so as he has suffered through 33 years of being "gang raped" by the State of Montana, mentally, emotionally and deep down in his very soul.....but this bill is about much more than Barry Beach. It is about every citizen who has the right to be adjudicated by a system that is free of corruption, egos, and cronyism. What has happened to Barry, and many others, could just as easily happen to any of us in a heartbeat, and it must be stopped!

I urge you to amend this bill to be retroactive and throw your full support behind it and get it passed in an expeditious manner.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,