

Exhibit No. 5
Date 4-20-2015
Bill No. 6253RE: SR 53
April 20, 2015STATEMENT OF FREDERICK F. SHERWOOD IN SUPPORT OF CONFIRMATION OF
JONATHAN MOTL AS COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES

Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you in support of the confirmation of Jonathan Motl as Commissioner of Political Practices.

My name is Rick Sherwood, and I have been a practicing lawyer in Montana since 1977. I am currently a partner in the Helena law firm of Morrison, Sherwood, Wilson and Deola.

I was previously a partner in the predecessor firm of Reynolds, Motl and Sherwood. I practiced law with Jon Motl from 1986 until he left to become Commissioner of Political Practices. During those 27 years I worked with Jon on countless cases. I was fortunate to do so. He is a great lawyer. I know that the other attorneys in my office share that opinion.

We had a successful law partnership. That cannot happen in private practice unless the attorneys are skilled in knowing the law and applying it to different fact situations. I had many opportunities to observe Jon's familiarity with the rules of evidence and the rules of procedure in courts and before administrative bodies. I also saw his ability to communicate with clients, juries, judges and opposing counsel.

In my opinion, Jon worked harder than any lawyer at our office. He also had a particular interest in campaign law.

Honestly, I was less than thrilled when Jon told me that he was interested in this position. My reaction was first of all selfish, as I did not want to lose him as a law partner. I also did not see why he would want to do this. It is a large pay cut from what he can earn in private practice. And as you know, public service often means public criticism, and having to develop a thick skin.

Nevertheless, I do understand that Jon has had a longstanding interest in this area of the law. He likes the subject and he knows it well. I doubt that anyone else currently has as much expertise in Montana campaign law as does Jon Motl. He is a great bargain for the State. I urge you to expeditiously confirm his appointment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frederick F. Sherwood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Frederick F. Sherwood
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Helena, MT 59601