

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Rep. H.S. "Sonny" Hanson, on January 20, 1993,
at 3:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Sonny Hanson, Chair (R)
Rep. Alvin Ellis, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Ray Brandewie (R)
Rep. Fritz Daily (D)
Rep. Ervin Davis (D)
Rep. Ed Dolezal (D)
Rep. Dan Harrington (D)
Rep. Jack Herron (R)
Rep. Bob Gervais (D)
Rep. Bea McCarthy (D)
Rep. Scott McCulloch (D)
Rep. Norm Mills (R)
Rep. Bill Rehbein (R)
Rep. Sam Rose (R)
Rep. Dick Simpkins (R)
Rep. Wilbur Spring (R)
Rep. Norm Wallin (R)
Rep. Diana Wyatt, Vice Chair (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Andrea Merrill, Legislative Council
Susan Lenard, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: HB 143, HB 173, HB 177
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HB 173

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. KADAS, House District 55, Missoula, announced HB 173 would
remove the statute requiring the Office of Public Instruction to

maintain the state visual, aural, and other educational media library.

Proponents' Testimony:

Jack Copps, Deputy Superintendent of the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), explained because of budget cuts, the library is no longer located in OPI. He said the materials are presently stored at Western Montana College. Since the appropriations committee voted last week to eliminate the revenues and the full-time equivalent position for this library, Mr. Copps stated all that needs to be done now is to remove the statutory requirement concerning its existence.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from the Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor: REP. KADAS closed the hearing on HB 173.

HEARING ON HB 177

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. BIRD, House District 52, Superior, noted HB 177 would eliminate the financial accounting duties of county superintendents of schools and would transfer those duties to the superintendent of the office of public instruction (OPI), the county treasurer, or school district clerks. She stated the intent of the bill was to keep local control in the schools so counties would be responsible to each other and to OPI. REP. BIRD said HB 177 is potentially a "good change" bill. Written testimony was presented. EXHIBIT 1

Proponents' Testimony:

Don Latham, Huson, Montana, said HB 177 is an effort to cut costs and eliminate the redundant position of the county superintendent of schools. He urged the committee's support of the bill.

Opponents' Testimony:

Gwen Anderson, Teton County Superintendent of Schools, Choteau, suggested that school district clerks, treasurers, and OPI would not be equipped to handle the added responsibilities. She said Section 21 of the bill erodes the power of trustees in school district fiscal matters. Ms. Anderson stated there are already mechanisms in place to reduce the county superintendent's office to part-time if the county sees fit to do so. She said the responsibility should remain at the local level. Ms. Anderson disagreed with the fiscal note, contending the county superintendent is not subject to over-time pay, as are the county

clerk and recorder and employees in the treasurer's office. She stressed the county superintendent's position is an important part of the checks and balances in the educational process.

REP. LARSON, House District 65, Seeley Lake, stated he stands in opposition to HB 177 on behalf of the educators in his district. He commented the position of county superintendent is a repository of skills which many local schools do not have. He insisted it is the single most important office to rural school districts in House District 65.

REP. HAYNE, House District 10, Dupuyer, offered a written testimony by the Glacier County Superintendent of Schools, Darryl Omsberg. **EXHIBIT 2**

Rachel Vielleux, County Superintendent of Schools, Missoula, said the major function of the county superintendent is not just to perform as informational conduits. She stated school districts and counties were promised a software system by OPI which would allow districts to enter and send budget information directly to the county superintendent's office. **Ms. Vielleux** said school districts have yet to receive this software system. She suggested the inefficiency of the system does not lie within the county superintendent's office, but with the sending of information to Salt Lake City by OPI, in order that budget materials be entered into computers there.

Berna Jean Niemi, School District Clerk, Roy Public Schools, offered written testimony to the committee. **EXHIBIT 3**

Cort Harrington, Montana County Treasurers Association, explained HB 177 just transfers duties and does not eliminate them. He said the transferred duties would create the need for additional staff in the county treasurer's office. He presented written testimony from the **Fergus County Treasurer, Susan Spurgeon.** **EXHIBIT 4**

Karl Roosa, Powell County Superintendent of Schools, testified in opposition to HB 177.

Lynda Brannon, Montana Association of School Business Officials, offered written testimony from **MASBO** and from **Mildred Fleming, District Clerk, St. Regis.** **EXHIBIT 5**

Don Waldron, Montana Rural Education Association, said **MREA** does not see HB 177 as a cost saving measure. He suggested **OPI** would need a larger budget to handle the added responsibilities.

Bruce Moerer, Montana School Boards Association, commented on the loss of control of the board of trustees in the bill. He also expressed concern for rural districts in the state.

Rosalie English, Roy, Montana, remarking on the need for county superintendents, asked the committee to oppose HB 177.

Kitty Logan, Teaching Principal, Swan Valley School District, asked to go on record in opposition to HB 177.

Loran Frazier, School Administrators of Montana, suggested HB 177 would remove a position SAM believes is necessary and will someday be brought back if eliminated.

Sheila Koepke, District Clerk, Mountain View Elementary School, Cut Bank, said county clerks' offices would be required to add additional staff in order to handle the increase in job responsibilities. She asked the committee to oppose HB 177.

Gordon Morrison, Director of Montana Association of Counties, stating he speaks for 43 county commissioners, asked the committee to give a do not pass recommendation on HB 177.

William Kleinsasser, District Clerk, Lewis and Clark County, asked to go on record in opposition to HB 177.

Craig Brewington, Hellgate Elementary School, Missoula, asked the committee to oppose HB 177.

REP. CLARK, House District 31, Ryegate, said the fiscal note was not credible. He asked to go on record in opposition to HB 177.

Jack Copps, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, stated Nancy Keenan, the superintendent of OPI, does not wish to go on record in favor of nor opposed to HB 177. She disagrees with the comment the position of county superintendent of schools is unnecessary. He noted the superintendent suggested a study be done which addresses the whole of the educational process rather than one small part.

Allan Lowry, Glacier County Commissioner, asked to go on record in opposition to HB 177.

Norma Grabofsky, District Clerk, Miami Elementary School, Pondera County, questioned if the county treasurer's office would have an individual qualified enough to address school budgetary concerns and teacher evaluations.

Linda Bruner, County Superintendent, Pondera County, presented written testimony from Marlene Stoetzal Fischer, Pondera County Treasurer, and asked to go on record in opposition to HB 177.

EXHIBIT 6

REP. GERVAIS, House District 9, Browning, asked to go on record in opposition to HB 177.

REP. REHBEIN, House District 21, Lambert, asked to be put on record in opposition to HB 177.

Betty Brumwell, Dutton School Business Manager, sent in written testimony. EXHIBIT 7

Bonnie Boggs, Teacher, Loma Elementary School, offered written testimony in opposition to HB 177. **EXHIBIT 8**

Isabel Zook, Clerk of School District #83, submitted written testimony. **EXHIBIT 9**

Beth Bergum, District Clerk, Winifred, contributed written testimony opposing HB 177. **EXHIBIT 10**

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. ROSE asked REP. BIRD to identify the educational leader of rural schools if the county superintendent position is removed. REP. BIRD stated HB 177 will not work without the unification of small school districts.

REP. SIMPKINS commented on OPI's request to be exempt from HB 28 which required standardization of direct electronic reporting on financial data. He asked Mr. Copps why OPI requested to be exempt when it does not have the computerized capability to receive information from districts in forms other than by paper transfer. Mr. Copps replied the technology is there but time and cost are needed to implement the system. He indicated only some of the larger school districts in Montana have the capacity to execute the implementation.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. BIRD said HB 177 touches only one part of the educational puzzle. She said county superintendents perform a variety of functions, but stressed HB 177 would work to maximize the efficiency of the system. REP. BIRD asked the committee to view the bill as a catalyst toward positive change.

HEARING ON HB 143

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. SWANSON, House District 79, Bozeman, stressed HB 143 does not affect elementary schools, high schools with 25 or more students, schools more than 20 miles from another school, or schools where students would need to ride for more than one hour to school. She insisted it is not a bill forcing any school to close. She highlighted the change in the law that would occur with the passage of HB 143. REP. SWANSON said the bill makes a change in foundation programs and would impact only the smallest high schools, those with fewer than 25 students not farther than 20 miles from the next nearest school. She stated HB 143 would make the manner in which the state deals with small high schools consistent with the way it deals with small elementary schools. REP. SWANSON maintained the state cannot continue to support these small schools. Depending upon the amount of schools

affected, the bill could recognize a savings to the state of \$200,000 to \$400,000. She said the voters of Montana are looking to the Legislature to make savings in the state budget which make sense. **REP. SWANSON** distributed a chart to the committee outlining the potential savings to the state. **EXHIBIT 11**

Proponents' Testimony:

REP. SPRING, House District 77, Northern Gallatin County, advocated the passage of HB 143. He declared the state cannot afford to support all of the programs everyone wants.

Opponents' Testimony:

REP. REHBEIN, House District 21, Lambert, remarked HB 143 has the potential of "breaking the backs" of numerous rural communities. He said HB 143 would eventually cause the destruction of many small towns because the closure of schools would result in the loss of community focus.

Bob Anderson, Montana School Boards Association, stated HB 143 is no more than a piecemeal approach toward fixing what is wrong with state government. He noted MSBA, representing over 1500 school trustees across the state, has adopted a resolution to look at the issue of school consolidation. **Mr. Anderson** made it clear MSBA considers HB 143 to be a consolidation bill. He asked if the counties or the university system have been responsible enough to consider consolidation.

Trudi Peterson, Member of the Judith Gap Community, announced she is against any consolidation that will discriminate against the welfare of children in her community. She commented on the difficulty surrounding travel time and travel conditions during adverse weather. **Ms. Peterson** provided written testimony and distributed photographs taken during a recent snow storm depicting potential hazardous driving conditions on roads in her district. **EXHIBITS 12 and 13**

Don Waldron, Montana Rural Education Association, commenting on the objective of districts to maintain local control of the destiny of their schools, said MREA is against HB 143 because it is an attempt to consolidate schools in a back-door manner. He said the bill would increase local mill levies to impractical levels and would be in violation of the guidelines set forth in the first school funding decision issued by the Montana Supreme Court. Written testimony was provided. **EXHIBIT 14**

Kay Cain, School Board Chairman, Hellgate Elementary, said the people in this state do not want consolidation. She stated the cost of education in Montana is well below that of most states in the country, and produces higher results. **Ms. Cain** stressed the dropout rate of small high schools is so low it more than makes up for the "potential" savings which could be recognized by the passage of the bill.

Kurt Dyer, High School Board Trustee, Brady, contended most bills dealing with consolidation and school finance are discriminatory only towards small schools. Written testimony was provided.

EXHIBIT 15

Carl Odegard, Board of Trustees, Outlook Public Schools, presented written testimony. He said the savings to the state and the per pupil costs in small districts, as noted in recent newspaper articles, are flawed. **Mr. Odegard** asked the committee to vote against HB 143. **EXHIBIT 16**

Don Spritzer, Elementary School Board Trustee, Hellgate Elementary School, Missoula, said HB 143 threatens local control in school districts. He explained that since some small high schools share teachers and support staff with their elementary schools, the bill would have a negative impact on elementary schools as well.

Richard Cameron, Superintendent of Schools, Lavina, stressed HB 143 would transfer a tax burden, rather than save money. He said the treasurer of Golden Valley County informed him that districts in his county lose money in the foundation process. Written testimony was provided. **EXHIBIT 17**

David Konecny, Superintendent of Schools, Willow Creek, commented HB 143 will force consolidation of small schools. He said the consolidation of the five smallest high schools in Montana would translate to only five out of every three thousand dollars of the state deficit. **Mr. Konecny** stressed the bill would degrade the cooperative interaction between "home and school" that underlie effective education. Written testimony was provided. **EXHIBIT 18**

Joe Wester, School Board Chairman, Willow Creek, suggested passage of HB 143 would result in a great loss to the tax base and an increase in unemployment in the Willow Creek community.

Trudi McLean, Willow Creek, announcing she is proud of her community, said if the high school were to close, the town would not only lose at least fourteen businesses, but its identity as well.

Naida Allen, Junior, Willow Creek High School, said that small towns set the foundation for family values. She commented on the close one-on-one approach teachers are able to give students in small schools. **Ms. Allen** said Willow Creek School does not suffer the problems of larger schools. Written testimony was provided. **EXHIBIT 19**

Darby Trim, Senior, Willow Creek High School, presented written testimony expressing his affection and concern for Willow Creek and its school. **EXHIBIT 20**

Ken Allen, Native of Willow Creek, commenting on the history of Willow Creek, said there would eventually be nothing left of the

town if the school were to close. He insisted the town could not support the school if foundation funding were cut further.

REP. CLARK, House District 31, Ryegate, said he does not believe it is up to the Legislature to force consolidation on school districts. He maintained people around the state will consolidate when they are ready to do so. **REP. CLARK** suggested transportation costs would effectively outweigh the projected savings if all the small schools in the state were forced to consolidate. He said education in smaller schools rivals that of larger ones, and smaller schools should not be viewed as giving a lesser quality education.

REP. BARNETT, House District 76, Belgrade, referring to the U.S. Constitution, and rights left to the states and to the people, suggested that problems should be settled as close to the source as possible. He said HB 143 would accentuate the disparity in funding between large and small schools in Montana.

Ronald Pfeifle, School Board Trustee, Power School District, said he is against forced consolidation of schools. He stressed the importance of the small town lifestyles which residents in Montana desire.

Tom Sparks, Plevna, asked to go on record in opposition to HB 143, asserting local control should be left with local school boards.

Dean Harmon, Bainville, commenting he was not testifying to defend jobs, said the value system of the state and the nation has come from the soil. He asked the committee to consider the importance of the survival of small towns in Montana, and urged the committee not to vote for a bill which would threaten rural communities by potentially forcing the closure of schools.

Vance Anderson, Bainville, stressing the excellent education children obtain in small schools, told the committee that a loss of rural schools would translate to a loss in the tax base of the state. Written testimony was provided. **EXHIBIT 21**

Daryl Giese, School Board Chairman, Bainville, read letters written by third and fourth graders at Bainville School. **EXHIBITS 22 and 23**

Ruthie Horob, School Board Member, Bainville, presented written testimony. She explained she would be forced to take her children from a Montana school district and place them in one in North Dakota if HB 143 were to result in the closure of Bainville School. She asked the committee to consider all of the costs involved with consolidation. **EXHIBIT 24**

Ben Lehfeldt, Student Body President, Lavina High School, presented a petition from Lavina School and offered his own academic success to demonstrate the quality of education which

can be obtained at a small rural school. He asked the committee to vote against HB 143. **EXHIBIT 25**

REP. KNOX, House District 29, Winifred, noted HB 143 will result in the forced consolidation of schools. He said it will prompt the destruction of a large part of the social structure of Montana. **REP. KNOX** called attention to the greater potential of family disintegration if children are forced to attend school in another community.

David Ott, Board of Trustees Chairman, Reed Point Public Schools, stated the savings suggested by HB 143 would not be recognized. Written testimony was provided. **EXHIBIT 26**

Julie Lutke, Reedpoint High School, stressed the good aspects of attending a small school. She asked the committee to consider these aspects when deciding on HB 143.

REP. NELSON, House District 19, Medicine Lake, noted her agreement with previous testimony and asked for a no vote on HB 143.

SEN. NATHE, Senate District 10, Redstone, stated his opposition to the bill. Since there are many small schools in his district that could be affected, he asked the committee to give HB 143 a do not pass recommendation.

Loran Frazier, School Administrators of Montana, asked to go on record in opposition to HB 143.

Elm Oaks, Willow Creek, emphasized consolidation does not solve the problems facing education in the state. He noted large schools complain of overcrowding, and small schools offer equal or higher quality education because students get more direct attention in the classroom.

Harold Blattie, School Board Chair, Rapelje Public Schools, stated the Legislature is charged with providing a basic quality education for the students in the state. He said one of the consolidations with which he is familiar did not save the local taxpayers money. It did, however, make a great profit for the transportation contractor. **Mr. Blattie** said taxpayers in rural communities are not getting back what they pay into the foundation fund.

SEN. TVEIT, Senate District 11, Fairview, asked the Legislature to look at the consolidation of services, not of schools. He noted his strong opposition to HB 143.

Norm Hagen, Superintendent of Schools, Lambert Public Schools, commented on the probable increased transportation time of students already traveling a long distance to school. He asked the committee to consider the potential loss of teaching jobs in one district to teachers from another district with higher

seniority and greater pay if consolidation were to occur.

Al Thiessen, Lambert, stood in agreement with all of those opposed and asked the committee to vote against HB 143.

G.B. Schmierer, Savage, invited the sponsor of the bill to the school in Savage in order to see what a small school is able to accomplish.

John McNiels, Superintendent of Schools, Savage, said it would cost the taxpayers of Savage more if schools were forced to consolidate. He stood in disagreement with the statement the taxpayers of the state want this bill, and asked the committee to consider a Do Not Pass on HB 143.

Gerri Backes, Lambert, stood in opposition to HB 143.

REP. ELLIS, House District 84, Red Lodge, stated HB 28, introduced during the 1989 summer session, which initially proposed raising the foundation schedules for high schools approximately 20%, and for elementary schools approximately 13%, did not pass. He noted a compromise followed. The compromise increased the schedules for those elementary schools with over 300 students by nearly 8%. The result is that there are presently schools with between 14 and 50 students who receive less foundation money than any school in the state with greater than 300 students. **REP. ELLIS** maintained there is no other state in the nation with similar foundation schedules. He commented on the success of students who have graduated from Robert's High School in Carbon County, stressing the high degree of educational quality students can receive at small schools. **REP. ELLIS** referred to the presence of the House Select Committee whose purpose it is to study school funding, and said legislation brought forth this session needs to be fair to all Montanans. He stated those individuals who support consolidation in Carbon County generally live in towns large enough where the threat of closure of their own schools is not imminent. **REP. ELLIS** agreed with the comment an in-depth look must be taken at education, but stressed he was against a political piecemeal approach to solving the problem.

REP. SIMPKINS, House District 39, Great Falls, emphasized his opposition to forced consolidation. He said smaller schools in Montana are justified in saying they support larger schools in the state. **REP. SIMPKINS** stated HB 28 was the first bill to dispel the myth larger schools were supporting smaller schools. He said all of the small schools on the list distributed by **REP. SWANSON** exceed the guaranteed tax base amount, and therefore do not receive any portion of the forty million dollars collected statewide. He said the money they contribute goes to larger schools across the state. Out of twenty-nine of Montana's largest schools, only one does not receive guaranteed tax base money. **REP. SIMPKINS** stressed the courts recognize only the cost per pupil and the size of each school, not family values, test

scores, or student successes. He remarked on his continued support for local control in school districts. Utah's system of evaluating the performance of schools was given as an example of a measure of educational cost effectiveness for which **REP. SIMPKINS** has attempted to have put in place in Montana. He stated in order to decrease state spending by \$215 million, a 27% decrease in funding for grades K-12, an 86% reduction in university system spending, or an elimination of the other branches of state government (with the taxpayers still responsible for raising thirty million dollars) will be required. In his closing **REP. SIMPKINS** contended schools need to be made more productive and efficient. He said he would continue to work toward securing local community control.

Letters of opposition to HB 143 from residents in rural areas of Montana were submitted to the committee. **EXHIBITS 27 thru 63**. **EXHIBIT 27A** lists the names and addresses of those individuals from whom letters were received.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. SPRING asked **David Konecny** for the foundation program schedule amount, as determined by OPI, for the number of students at Willow Creek School. **Mr. Konecny** replied the foundation schedule for the present twenty-one students attending Willow Creek High School is \$144,000.

REP. MCCULLOCH asked if elementary schools have been closed down because of regulations similar to those proposed in HB 143. **REP. ELLIS** said Hogan School was closed at a time when mandates required a total of five students in a non-isolated school. He stated the requirement has now been increased to nine students. **REP. SWANSON** asked if the closing was due to the district being required to pay half of the foundation costs, or because the number of students did not fulfill the mandated requirements. **REP. ELLIS** responded he could not remember if the school was mandated to close or if it closed because of economic necessity.

REP. ELLIS asked the sponsor if she believed the Legislature could address the problems in education by considering a bill which affects such a small portion of education in Montana. **REP. SWANSON** said this piece of legislation is her attempt to address the financial crisis facing the state.

REP. WYATT asked for an historical perspective of school closures from **Andrea Merrill**. **Ms. Merrill** said since the 1949 Foundation Program Act, legislation regarding funding restrictions on elementary schools with nine students or fewer, or high schools with twenty-five students or fewer, has been passed. She explained, in each case, the laws were rescinded by the time the next legislature met and thus did not have to take effect.

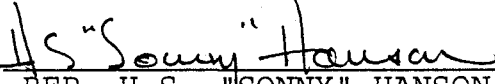
REP. SIMPKINS asked REP. SWANSON to comment on the conditions set by HB 28 requiring small schools to contribute money to help keep other schools across the state in operation. He asked if it would be fair to allow these smaller schools to be repaid their portion of the forty million dollars if foundation funds were taken from their districts. REP. SWANSON replied it was a judgement call.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. SWANSON commented that, although she agreed with much of the testimony presented today, it is a requirement of the Legislature to reduce spending on education and human services. She said any piece of legislation cutting these programs will be painful, but reminded the committee the state deficit rests at two hundred and fifteen million dollars. REP. SWANSON asked if the taxpayers in Montana will vote for increased taxes in order to keep small communities free from disruption. She asked where cuts will be made if they are not made here. REP. SWANSON urged the committee to give HB 143 a do pass recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:34 p.m.



REP. H.S. "SONNY" HANSON, Chair



SUSAN LENARD, Secretary

HSH/SL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Education and Cultural Resources COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE

1/20/93

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. SONNY HANSON , CHAIR	✓		
REP. ALVIN ELLIS , VICE-CHAIR	✓		
REP. DIANA WYATT , VICE-CHAIR	✓		
REP. RAY BRANDEWIE	✓		
REP. FRITZ DAILY	✓		
REP. ERVIN DAVIS	✓		
REP. ED DOLEZAL	✓		
REP. DAN HARRINGTON	✓		
REP. JACK HERRON	✓		
REP. BOB GERVAIS	✓		
REP. BEA MCCARTHY	✓		
REP. SCOTT MCCULLOCH	✓		
REP. NORM MILLS	✓		
REP. BILL REHBEIN	✓		
REP. SAM ROSE	✓		
REP. DICK SIMPKINS	✓		
REP. WILBUR SPRING	✓		
REP. NORM WALLIN	✓		



The Big Sky Country

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1/20/93
HB 177

1 of 2

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE JODY BIRD

HELENA ADDRESS:
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59620
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

HOME ADDRESS:
50 T-BIRD LANE
SUPERIOR, MONTANA 59872
PHONE: (406) 822-3374

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
NATURAL RESOURCES
AGRICULTURE

January 19, 1993
HB 177

Mr. Chairman, members of the Education Committee, for the record I am Representative Jody Bird, House District 52, Superior. The bill before you, HB 177 would eliminate the financial accounting duties of the county superintendent of schools and transfer those duties to the superintendent of public instruction (OPI), county treasurer, or clerks of the school districts.

Because I have not yet received the fiscal note from the budget office, and cannot pinpoint the cost-savings involved, I asked the Chair's indulgence in delaying this hearing; however, he assured me you will consider the fiscal impact during executive session on the bill. It is my intent that local control remain in the schools and the county, who would deal directly with each other and OPI.

HB 177 is cosponsored by approximately twenty legislators from both sides of the aisle and both houses. There are also a number of interests who support this concept, but whom you may not hear from today for various reasons.

HB 177 was drafted by your researcher, Andrea Merrill. Should you have questions during executive session, I am sure Andrea will be able to either answer them or point you to an appropriate source.

This bill has been reviewed extensively by OPI and received some input from their office during the drafting process. I am not certain whether Greg Groepper or anyone from OPI will appear today to explain how it works. Certainly you as members of this committee have the privilege of asking him, however. It is my understanding that some county superintendents are not currently and may not have been performing some of the duties addressed in HB 177 for a period of time.

Rather than the traditional promotional pitch, I'd rather share this story with you. At times when my spirit needs a lift, I listen to children's music. I'm still just a little kid in an old body, it would seem. One of the songs is about a "coopasaurus", a dinosaur who has learned to cooperate with his friends, and won't be ignored. I share this partly because I

January 20, 1993
HB 177
Page 2

heard it stated once or twice, prior to the introduction of this bill, that county superintendents of schools are essentially "dinosaurs" - a matter on which I do not feel qualified to comment.

The words of the song say "I'm a coopasaurus, and no, no, no, you can't ignore us, do the coop walk - help your neighbor, help him a lot...". The song goes on to talk about an octopus whose many arms are outstretched to grab everything he can get for himself, and consequently finds himself friendless - so he learns to use ALL his arms to be helpful to others, including the coopasaurus. And the octopus finds friends, as a result of his "attitude adjustment".

I hope each one of you present in this room today will choose the "coopasaurus walk" over the former self-centered, grab-it-for-myself attitude of the octopus, who, upon realizing a need for change, took action, and saw that things really began to work for him in a positive way. I believe helpful change can work for those of you whose arms are attached to education, as well.

This bill has been discussed with members of OPI, MSBA, SAM, MREA, MEA, about 25 county superintendents of schools, and many others during the course of its formation. Consequently, it's concepts have had lots of airing. I have been assured by OPI staff that this bill will cause no increase in FTE for their office. It also appears that schools can handle these financial accounting duties without much difficulty.

Again, I thank you, Mr. Chairman and the members of this committee for your indulgence. I believe HB 177 has the potential to be a "coopasaurus bill", if all the octopuses/octopi (yes, I did look this up in the dictionary and either is correct) will agree to do a little letting go with all their arms and use them for cooperative purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Jody Bird
House District 52

JB:ag

**Public
Education**
...a sound
investment in
AMERICA

GLACIER COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
DARRYL D. OMSBERG, SUPERINTENDENT
GLACIER COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING
1210 EAST MAIN
CUT BANK, MT 59427

January 17, 1993

Representative Harriet Hayne
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Representative Hayne:

The purpose of this communication is to request your opposition to House Bill 177. This bill is being sponsored by Representative J. Bird of Superior, Montana. The passage of this bill will be detrimental to the Office of Public Instruction, local governments and schools.

I'm urging you to attending the hearing on Wednesday, January 20, 1993, at 3:00 p.m., before the House Education Committee, to testify against House Bill 177.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Darryl D. Omsberg
Glacier County Superintendent of Schools

January 20, 1993

Dear House Education and Cultural Resources Committee,

As a school district clerk of 14 years, I would like address House Bill 177.

First of all, this bill not only takes away some responsibilities of the County Superintendent, it puts the control of this money in the hands of people who are not familiar with each individual school. This bill will make it very hard to solve any problems that may come up in a timely and efficient manner.

Secondly, the Roy School District has called on the County Superintendent many times to solve problems and assist in conflict resolutions with parents, teachers, and administrators. Our office has used the County Superintendent and her staff to complete forms, trustee reports, budgets, and other financial reports. Without the information contained at the County Superintendent's office, these forms would have been much more difficult if not almost impossible to complete accurately.

Because the County Superintendent is local, she is able to relate well to our needs and give assistance when needed either personally or by referring us to the appropriate resource.

Our County Supt. is and has been actively involved in many educational groups and organizations. She also is the coordinator of the Fergus County Spelling Bee and other functions such as this. She takes an active role in providing workshops for clerks, supt.'s, transportation directors, and bus drivers. She sees the needs of these diverse groups and strives to meet those needs through personal help, giving referrals, providing education, and sharing information.

With the above stated reasons in mind, I strongly oppose House Bill 177.

Sincerely,



Berna Jean Niemi, Clerk
Roy Public Schools
Roy, MT 59471

FERGUS COUNTY

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1/20/93
HB 177

STATE OF MONTANA

Lewistown, Montana 59457

PO Box 980
Lewistown, MT 59457
January 19, 1993

To the Honorable Chairman and Members of the
House Education Committee

RE: HB 177

I would like to request that you oppose HB 177 - An act eliminating the financial accounting duties of the County Superintendent of Schools and transferring those duties to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, County Treasurer or Clerks of the School District.

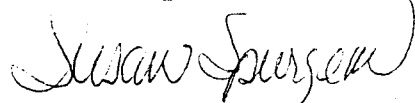
Fergus County has 13 different school clerks for schools ranging in size from Lewistown's schools to one-room schools in the rural area. The majority of these clerks depend on the guidance of the County Superintendent of Schools to help from everyday type problems to Trustee Reports.

As County Treasurer, with a minimum of staff, I can't imagine having duties that are currently handled by a very knowledgeable County Superintendent transferred to my office without hiring additional personnel - if I am faced with hiring additional people - why not leave the County Superintendent in charge of these duties?

In efforts to make County Government more efficient, HB 177 is not the solution. I feel strongly that the system that we have currently-that HB 177 addresses-is fine AS IS!!!

Your consideration of these comments will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Susan Spurgeon
Fergus County Treasurer



EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1/20/93
#B 177

Montana Association of School Business Officials

One South Montana Avenue

Helena, MT 59601

Lynda Brannon, Executive Director

(406) 442-5599

I worked for the OPI for 13 years before taking the position I have now representing school clerks. In that time, I worked closely with district clerks and county treasurers. Not once in that time can I recall any one person out there stating that they didn't have enough to do.

District clerks are stretched to the limit now with a massive work load. I would like to read you one paragraph of a letter sent to Senator Stang regarding the workload on district clerks and administrators.

County Treasurers also are not looking for work. This office is already stretched passed its capacity. Many times the information from their office is months behind. You will only compound the problem with this bill.

I have not attended any of house bill 2 hearings in which the appropriation for OPI has occurred. I doubt that with the states' dire financial situation there is extra money being appropriated for them and if facts were known, they are probably not testifying to please take money away since we have employees that are lacking for work, especially in the accounting/fiscal area. To absorb the duties mentioned in this bill, either more employees would have to be hired at OPI or the chosen few who do the actual work would be stretched so far they would break.

As you take action on this bill, please consider what you are transferring to other folks. We are not opposed to change but lets do it in a manner that will improve things not make them worse.

ATTACHMENT

Thank You
Lynda Brannon

Copy

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 1/20/93
SB HB 177

34 Fir Street
Trout Creek, MT 59874
November 9, 1992

Mr. Barry Stang, Senator
St. Regis, Montana 59866

Dear Mr. Stang:

I have been reading with mixed feelings and growing alarm, the comments of you and your contemporaries regarding the costs of education, specifically in the K-12 Administration area.

After 20 years as a District Clerk and Business Manager in Montana, (who is admittedly pro-management) I offer some very good reasons why K-12 administration might be considered costly. A point of information: our Chief Executive Officer -- the Superintendent -- is paid only 20% more per day than our highest paid teacher. There is not just one reason, the reasons are collective.

1. Most administrators of Class C schools (those which you must admit are being specifically targeted by the legislature for "consolidation") are SUPPOSED TO BE LEADING THE SCHOOL to accomplish the most for the education of the students. This is the theory. In fact, the administrators do far more than administer the "education" portion of the schools -- they are deluged with the demands of the teachers' unions (who apparently have very active and successful lobbyists affecting the decisions of both you and your contemporaries) who demand increasingly higher salaries for increasingly fewer responsibilities, collective bargaining which crosses over into the rights of management and the boards of trustees, etc. Administrators must also keep up with all the district's legal requirements (ARM alone accounts for 20 to 25 pages quarterly plus the BIG one after the legislature adjourns), plus being aware of the EEOC, Human Rights Commission, AHERA, and many other regulatory acts and agencies. In addition most "C" administrators are additionally acting as principal of either K-8 or 9-12.

2. Most administrators have long ago forgotten what an eight-hour day feels like. They are recipients of all sorts of telephone calls, demands, complaints and criticism after school hours. A more accurate description is that they are literally on 24-hour call. (Our superintendent is even required to live on the school grounds!)

3. Most administrators, in addition to being in charge of the educational climate of the school, have supervision of lunchrooms, bus fleets, pupil transportation, building maintenance, either the occasional overcrowded classroom or classes with too few students (but required by accreditation standards), and must evaluate all the personnel involved as well.

4. Most administrators SHOULD ATTEND their professional meetings. They must keep their boards of trustees informed, must "cooperate" with every school-related organization, plus take all the criticism of every "public education forum" organized by local malcontents, and at all times attend every ball game, band concert, or any other activity connected with the school.

5. Most administrators have, together with their District Clerk, prepared the

budget for the year (albeit not knowing whether the legislature will be funding in a different manner, whether the legislature will mandate more of the funding by local taxpayers), and helped the boards of trustees to decide what the mill levies should be (depending upon which crystal ball you may be able to rely upon). After this oft-maligned document is APPROVED, then it must be administered, after being reduced because of funding changes, changed because of legislation, further decreased because of collective bargaining after the fact, changed again because of a change in accreditation standards, rules, regulations, etc., after being changed still again because of the change in rates for Workers' Compensation Insurance, and we could go on for a page or two -- all these changes must be made without changing the bottom line, naturally. Then, of course, the administration is usually severely criticized because "not enough money is being spent on: athletics, teaching supplies and frills, athletics, extra-curricular activities, athletics, etc. etc."

6. In addition to the Superintendent, there is usually one principal (who admittedly may be tenured), who acts as an Athletic Director, disciplinarian, mediator of student and/or teacher problems, helps with truancy/attendance problems, and helps "put out fires", and "other duties as assigned."

7. The Office of Public Instruction has increased the reports required from all school districts by leaps and bounds. Not only that, but far too many of these reports are poorly designed, which makes completing them awkward at best. Not even good business practices are implemented in some cases, i.e. one method for accounting, but an entirely different method for reporting, which requires additional hours.

I am sure I have omitted many other very important duties and responsibilities, but the above are those which come to mind from the week just passed!

This District Clerk/Business Manager, who is a Public Accountant, with a total of over 25 years in school accounting, can give you a very good example of why school administration costs so much. My position 17 to 20 years ago was very different. At that time (with the same number of teachers and only three fewer other employees) I could, WITHOUT A COMPUTER, do all the accounting and required reports, payroll and required reports, special programs and required reports, in an average of 8 to 10 hours per week. Now, with all the regulations imposed by OPI, the State and Federal Agencies, etc., WITH A BUSY 200-MB, VERY EFFICIENT COMPUTER, I can rarely get everything done in a 40-hour week.

One isolated example of why: A couple of years ago, OPI decided that schools should go on to the GAAP accounting program (which is logical), but instead of just going on to it, they decided to "phase it in". First they hired one person to "implement the program". Then that person had to have an assistant "to phase it in". At this writing there are at least three full-time (and now probably PERMANENT) positions plus a shared department director, who are probably going to keep the changes coming to insure their jobs will be permanent. Then OPI had to have a completely new computer (LARGE!!) which of course would require more people to input the information.

Note: If this is being done at every level in State Government, which it probably is, I can see WHY Montana is in trouble!

Now if you happen to be listening to the MEA/AFT unions touting their brand of

site-based management, please be advised that the "duty-free" periods they now have in their contracts (from 1/6 to 2/7 of the day plus lunch) would most surely still be in effect. Not only that, it could, and probably would, be perpetuated because teachers are tenured (administrators, except for principals, are not). Having seen and worked with some of these teachers' reports, and experiencing the reliability of their paper work for 20 years, I can emphatically assure you that costs of administration would most definitely INCREASE!

Do not misunderstand me. There are:

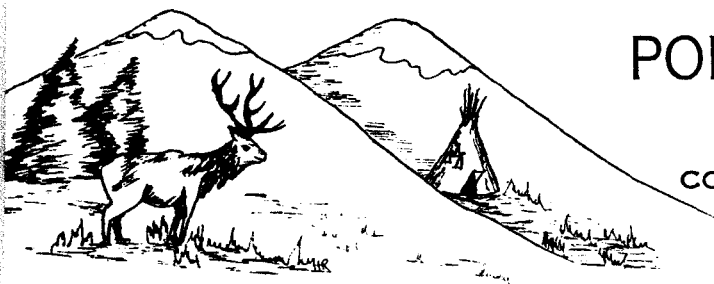
1. Many GOOD teachers;
2. Many teachers who were good until tenured;
3. Many teachers who are both good AND tenured; and
4. Many teachers who will never comprehend the business/legal aspects of education -- they do not even police their own ranks!

I question if the good people of Montana would really want to finance the costs of education, plus the accompanying frills requested by many teachers, PLUS the costs of the teachers' unions (still representing them), and most assuredly resultant higher-yet costs of administration.

Please give this letter some thought. I have not cited specific examples, nor is that my purpose. My purpose is to try to tell you that the costs of administration of Class "C" schools overall is probably not excessive, given the duties of the administration in these schools. If these same schools were consolidated, I fail to see how it would "save" inasmuch as the "Superintendent of Consolidated Schools" would be priced higher, there is still the need for local administrators, and my personal opinion is that there would just be one additional level of administration (like the one temporary OPI position which has evolved into four).

Sincerely,

Mildred S. Fleming



PONDERA COUNTY

20 4TH AVENUE S.W.

CONRAD, MONTANA 59425

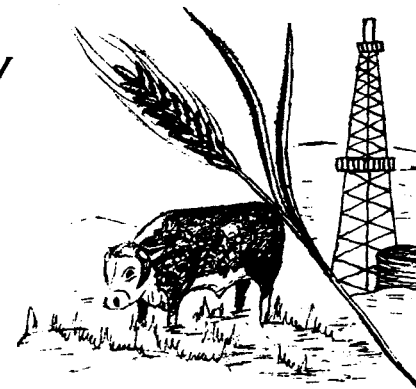


EXHIBIT 6
DATE 1/20/93
BB 177

January 19, 1993

The Honorable H.S. Hanson, Chairman
Education and Cultural Resources Comm.
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Representative Hanson;

This letter is in regards to HB72 and its companion bill, HB177.
I recommend a "no pass" for both of these bills.

I serve as the Pondera County Treasurer and work directly with the school districts, the county superintendent, and the Office of Public Instruction. It is my opinion that the office of County Superintendent is necessary to facilitate the workload, to serve as a check and balance, and to ensure local input and control for our school districts. It is also my opinion that no further duties need be placed upon my office without hiring additional personnel. Therefore, eliminating the county superintendent's office will neither save money nor expediate the completion of necessary paper work for financial matters.

Sincerely,

Marlene Stoetzel Fischer
Pondera County Treasurer

cc: Joann T. Bird

January 20, 1993

TO: House Education Committee

RE: HB 177 County Superintendents

I oppose any efforts to eliminate the office of County Superintendents. County Superintendents provide a valuable service to school districts by overseeing the budgeting and reporting procedures as well as providing teacher inservice and supervision. No other person in the county cares specifically for schools and would be able to fulfill school needs.

If the state wants to reduce its expenditures, it should look at allowing County Superintendents to fulfill more duties and reduce staff at the OPI level. Taxpayers want more "local control" and do not want one more duty moved to the state level. Taxpayers, particularly from smaller towns, are willing to pay for services at the County level, but are tired of sending their dollars to the state.

Keep County Superintendents and reduce OPI staff.

Sincerely,

Betty Drumwell
Dutton School Business Manager

LOMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BOX 188

LOMA, MONTANA 59460

EXHIBIT 8

DATE 1/20/93

HB 177

January, 19, 1993

Sonny Hanson, Committee Chairman;
House Education and Cultural Resource Committee
State Capitol
Helena

TO: Committee Members of House Bill 177
SPONSOR: Jodi Bird

I would like to respond to HB 177 and thank you for allowing my voice to be heard.

I believe we need an elected County Superintendent of schools rather than allowing a County Treasurer or other personnel managing our school business.

A County Superintendent knows what must be done in the areas of school budget, cash appropriation and school finance because they work with it every day and they are current with new changes. They are responsible in school finance matters and can adequately maintain our school necessities. They are versed in school diversity and transactions.

Using our County Superintendent as an example; I cannot stress enough how important he is to our fiscal security. He works very closely with us and the other county schools and is always available with facts and figures. I believe this is essential to a well organized school system.

I feel if fiscal duties were transferred to any other personnel, our school standards and security would be in jeopardy. School duties would be in the hands of an office not capable of handling and less knowledgeable of the management of school duties.

I also believe we could see school standards falling because of overwork and less attention given to important details by inexperienced people. It could mean overload in their department and the necessity of hiring extra help, equipment and so forth.

Why not let the professional handle his/her profession--that of managing the fiscal duties of the school.

A County Superintendent is elected by the people to maintain the schools within their county. Let it remain that way.

I oppose HB 177

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Bonnie M. Boggs
Supervising Teacher
Loma Elementary #7

I AM ISABEL ZOOK, CLERK OF SCHOOL DISTRICT #83.

IT IS FREIGHTENING TO THINK OF REMOVING OUR LOCAL COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS AND HAVE THE SCHOOL BOARDS DEAL DIRECTLY WITH OPI. IN THE PAST FEW YEARS FORMS COMING FROM OPI HAVE BEEN RIDDLED WITH MISTAKES. THIS PAST FALL OUR TRANSPORTATION FORMS WERE MAILED TO CUSTER COUNTY WITH ZEROS WHERE DOLLAR FIGURES SHOULD HAVE BEEN. OPI EVIDENTLY DIDN'T CHECK THE FORMS BEFORE THE COSTLY PRINTING AND MAILING OF THESE BULKY FORMS. THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS IN EASTERN MONTANA HAVE COME UP WITH MANY IDEAS TO IMPROVE THIS SITUATION. ALLOW THE SUPT. TO DO MORE OF THE PAPERWORK AND OPI LESS. OPI WANTED THE CLERKS TO GET THEIR BOOKS ON COMPUTER TO SPEED THINGS UP AND SAVE MONEY. THE CLERKS HAVE WORKED HARD TO IMPLEMENT THIS, BUT 2 YEARS LATER OPI CANNOT ACCEPT OUR PRINTOUTS. THEY MAY SAY MONEY IS THEIR PROBLEM, BUT OUR LOCAL DISTRICTS AND OUR Co. SUPT. OFFICE MANAGED TO DO IT WITHIN OUR REGULAR BUDGETS. LOCALLY WE WORK TOGETHER TO GET THINGS DONE, PLEASE DON'T TURN MORE OPERATION OVER TO OPI.

RUNNING THE BOOKS THROUGH THE COUNTY TREASURERS OFFICE WILL ONLY MEAN THAT OFFICE WILL HAVE TO HIRE MORE HELP, LIKELY NUMBER CRUNCHERS. WHAT PUPILS AND EDUCATION NEED ARE PEOPLE LIKE MOST OF OUR Co. SUPT. WHO ARE EDUCATED ON SCHOOL FINANCE AND PROCEDURES AND KNOW WHAT IS BEHIND THE NEED FOR THE FORMS. THE FIGURES ARE IMPORTANT BUT THE PUPILS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND TAXPAYERS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED.

AS A CLERK FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS, I BELIEVE THIS BILL WOULD ONLY INCREASE COSTS OF EDUCATION AS WELL AS REMOVE LOCAL INPUT.

TO: HOUSE EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCE SUBCOMMITTEE
FROM: BETH BERGUM, DISTRICT CLERK, WINIFRED, MT.
RE: HOUSE BILL 177

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

As a member of MASBO and a clerk in a high school/elementary school in Fergus County, I would like to address HS 177.

I fail to see the practicality of the proposed legislation. Further, I fail to see the cost effectiveness of assigning financial responsibility to the Office of Public Instruction when these duties are being performed on a more local level.

I understand there is already in place mechanics which allow a county to reduce the time on task of the county superintendent position, if this is deemed advisable. I see no reason for any further action on this matter.

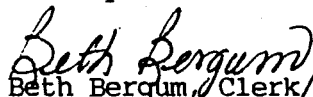
In Fergus County, not only does the superintendent assist with the financial affairs of the districts, she is involved in many other worthwhile aids to schools. She is a member of the local clerk's group and disseminates information as well as presenting outside speakers. She is a member of the local school superintendent's organization and the county transportation committee and provides services to both groups.

Fergus County has six rural schools, five high school/elementary combinations and the Lewistown schools. A great deal of time is spent assisting the rural schools, in addition to services to the schools employing a school superintendent.

While we all acknowledge the State of Montana must find ways to cut expense, I do not feel this would be cost effective enough to warrant the loss of the office. Our Office of Public Instruction does a fine job in the areas they are now assigned, but could not possibly replace the local level control of the office of county superintendent. Further destruction of local control can only hurt our state.

Schools in the state need the county superintendent of schools to continue to provide services to the local area. It is in the best interest of the state.

Thank you.



Beth Bergum, Clerk/Business
Winifred School District No. 115
Winifred, Mt 59489

DATE 1/20/93

PB 143

TABLE 2
MONTANA SMALLEST HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY
FOUNDATION PROGRAM
1992-93

COUNTY	LE	DISTRICT NAME	FY93 ANB	CURRENT FY93 HIGH SCHOOL	IF ENROLLED IN LARGER HIGH SCHOOL IF ENROLLED REDUCED IF ENROLLED REDUCED IF ENROLLED REDUCED	AMOUNT IF ENROLLED IF ENROLLED IF ENROLLED IF ENROLLED	HS OF 50 FNDN PAY	HS OF 100 FNDN PAY	REDUCED FNDN PAY
GOLDEN VALLEY	0411	LAVINA H S	24	143,793	123,413	20,380	84,192	59,601	
SHERIDAN	0831	OUTLOOK H S	24	143,793	123,413	20,380	84,192	59,601	
STILLWATER	0851	REEDPOINT H S	21	143,793	107,986	35,807	73,668	70,125	
GALLATIN	0355	WILLOW CREEK HS	16	143,793	82,275	61,518	56,128	87,665	
FERGUS	0280	ROY H S	15	143,793	77,133	66,660	52,620	91,173	
			100	718,965	514,220	204,745	350,800	368,165	

TABLE 3
MONTANA SMALLEST HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY
FOUNDATION PROGRAM AMOUNTS
1992-93 IF NON-ISOLATED

COUNTY	LE	DISTRICT NAME	FY93 ANB	CURRENT FY93 HIGH SCHOOL	IF ENROLLED IN LARGER HIGH SCHOOL IF ENROLLED REDUCED IF ENROLLED REDUCED IF ENROLLED REDUCED	AMOUNT IF ENROLLED IF ENROLLED IF ENROLLED IF ENROLLED	STATE EQUALIZA	LOCAL REQUIRED
GOLDEN VALLEY	0411	LAVINA H S	24	143,793	71,897	71,897	71,897	71,897
SHERIDAN	0831	OUTLOOK H S	24	143,793	71,897	71,897	71,897	71,897
STILLWATER	0851	REEDPOINT H S	21	143,793	71,897	71,897	71,897	71,897
GALLATIN	0355	WILLOW CREEK HS	16	143,793	71,897	71,897	71,897	71,897
FERGUS	0280	ROY H S	15	143,793	71,897	71,897	71,897	71,897
			100	718,965	359,483	359,483	359,483	359,483

Chairman Hanson and members of the House Education and Cultural Resources Committee, my name is Trudi Peterson, a member of the Judith Gap community.

We are opposed to any type of consolidation that will discriminate against the welfare of our children. We feel the burden of additional transit time, coupled with the certainty of bus travel during adverse weather and poor road conditions constitutes a severe hardship. Elimination of community, fragmentation of families, less income, lowered tax base, higher liability insurance costs, definite increases in unemployment, additional welfare costs, mass exit of people from the State due to loss of jobs are but a few major factors to be considered.

Our state is very concerned about our economy and should rightly be. Financial stability is the groundwork from which all aspects of an economy flourish. If forced ^{up} consolidation occurs through the passage of HB 143, the community of Judith Gap will be devastated.

Some parents may have to buy another home in another community with one parent and students staying there, while the other parent is at the other home. Or children may have to board in the town where they will be schooled. Neither of these options are good for students or families.

Over half of the students in the community are riding a bus. Many of these students are on the bus the maximum amount of time allowed by law. If they were bussed to another school, 18 to 24 miles further, that riding time would increase. We are singularly unique in the fact that the sparseness of our

population and vastness of our State are not comparable to any other situation. We do not feel our children should be discriminated against because of this uniqueness.

I would like you to view these pictures taken midday 3 to 5 miles from Judith Gap, as a mother and her children were trying to come to school in a ground blizzard. This is hazardous.

A contributing factor to the quality of education we feel our students are now receiving is attributable to the accessibility of the local education system. We are being told by our President and by many education professionals that families and family values, as well as community, are very important. Last fall, we attended some "Red Ribbon" week activities and were told that the family values that we have about drugs and alcohol are the best deterrents to our children's starting on drugs. Sending our children farther away from their home to educate them will make it harder for us as families and communities to reinforce those values.

HB 143 singles out certain districts by arbitrarily taking numbers without considering how far students already live from their school or where they live in reference to another school. If you do not live there, how can you say that these numbers are appropriate for these families?

We acknowledge and appreciate the support of many schools who do not believe in forced consolidation and maintain that local control results in the best possible education system. We are not here to argue the merits of large schools versus small schools. Each is appropriate to its own situation and should be

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 1/20/93
BB 143 pg 3 of 3

allowed to continue in that manner. We ask that you allow our district a fair and equal opportunity to continue to determine what is appropriate for our children.

EXHIBIT 13
DATE 1/20/93
~~SB~~ HB 143

DATE: _____

SUBJECT: Photographs of bad driving conditions offered to
the House Education Committee by Trudi Peterson, Judith Gap, MT

Because Quality Counts...

We print all your important pictures on KODAK EKTACOLOR ROYAL Paper:

- ▶ It's thick and durable to help your prints last longer.
- ▶ It brings out sharp details and gives you crisp images, bright whites, and rich colors.

J-235
PROOF
OF
PURCHASE

Kodak
—
PAPER

EXHIBIT 13
DATE 1/20/93
HB 143

House Education

J-235

©Eastman Kodak Company, 1991

Kodak, Ektacolor, and Royal are trademarks.

PLEASE NOTE: These photographs may be located at the Historical Society

MONTANA RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5418
HELENA, MONTANA 59604
(406) 442-8813
FAX (406) 442-8839

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 143

Don Waldron, Lobbyist

The Montana Rural Education Association is comprised of 165 primarily rural school districts in the State of Montana. A common objective of the school districts is to maintain "local control" of the destiny of their school districts. MREA is opposed to House Bill 143 and believes that it is a back-door attempt to consolidate school districts. It has the initial effect of forcing significant funding back to the local level, which runs directly counter to the Montana Supreme Court decision which required the state to achieve equitable state funding of education.

Montana is a rural state and will most likely always keep its rural nature. When looking at Montana, only 33 of its population centers could be considered to be urban. (2500 or more inhabitants.) Their total population is approximately 387,000. The other 432,000 Montanans live in what is considered rural by national standards.

This bill has two primary effects: first, it "transfers" half of the state's obligation for funding education to the local taxpayers. The practical effect of this "transfer" would be to increase local mill levies to impractical levels, particularly when the tax increases of HB 28 are considered.

The bill would leave school districts with little choice but to close or consolidate. Second, by transferring this funding responsibility to local taxpayers, the state would be violating the guidelines set forth in the first school funding decision issued by the Montana Supreme Court. The Court clearly indicated that the primary reason for the system's unconstitutionality was the decrease in the percentage of state funding for local schools.

Montanans know when to close or consolidate their school districts. In 1920 there were over 3,500 school districts in Montana. In 1945 we had 1,700 school districts, which is now reduced to just over 500. Districts continually close or consolidate as the local taxpayers decide they are no longer needed, or that educational services can be more efficiently provided elsewhere.

I once read: "When you cut the school a community bleeds." You will hear from these communities today which would be adversely affected by HB 143 and you can see for yourself how those communities would bleed.

You need to look closely as to what type of savings would be realized by HB 143. On its face, no savings would be realized at all as 50% of the state's responsibility would be shifted to local taxpayers. But even this bill resulted in consolidation, the question remains -- what would the cost savings be? About 20 years ago Wyoming went through a statewide consolidation of school districts. If you look at

their per pupil cost today, you will find that they are significantly higher than Montana's.

The real questions are whether consolidation would significantly save the State of Montana money, and would it result in a better quality education for the students. Unfortunately, there are no answers to those questions at this time. The Montana School Boards Association has commissioned a comprehensive study of this entire area and we would urge that the legislature defer acting without full knowledge of the reasons for its actions and their ramifications.

One thing we do know is that this bill will not save much money. The fiscal note indicates that for the biennium about \$350,000.00 would be saved in state funds. Considering 1991-92 statewide enrollment of 155,522 students, this comes to approximately \$2.31 per student over the two years of the biennium. You need to ask this question: is the money saved by the state in this bill worth the disruption you are causing these communities? We think not. We urge you to vote do not pass on HB 143.

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members

On behalf of the Brady School District, Board of Trustees, Parents and Students of the community of Brady, I would like to present to you the following testimony to be considered when reviewing bills concerning school funding and consolidation.

It is the consensus of the students, parents and other taxpaying members of our community that most legislation, particularly those bills dealing with consolidation and school finance, are discriminatory towards only small schools. Most legislation deals with budget cuts targeted to force consolidation in smaller districts, saving money that amounts to a drop in the bucket. Where is legislative planning to cut back budgets of the larger districts to save money?

Our small rural schools are one of Montana's crown jewels. Are you mandating that we destroy one of Montana's most valuable resources and high quality products - rural-raised and educated citizens and workers? Ask how many large corporate business (like IBM), the Secret Service, FBI, private owned companies, state and federal agencies look for Montana kids to employ? Coming from our rural communities, these people have a responsible, well-educated, not afraid of "work attitude" you won't find in urban areas. I know because it helped land me my first job working for the State of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I graduated from Brady high School and have always found that to be an asset.

Small school District offer the reality of many positive opportunities that are only a dream in larger Districts. The quality of education in smaller districts is far above the average... Teacher-student ratios allow for more individual attention to the student. Community and parent support is excellent. The opportunity for every student to participate and benefit from extra-curricular activities is far better than urban schools. Ninety percent of the students of the Brady School participate in our extra-curricular programs. We have much less of a drug and alcohol problem with rural area schools and require less Social Service monies to deal with those problems. A family atmosphere survives in our rural communities and is the biggest reason why

we don't have these problems. People are moving to Montana at an alarming rate to share that experience with those of us already here! Do we want to destroy that opportunity? Forced consolidation and closing of schools will. It will undermine and collapse our way of life that we have worked hard to preserve, as well as our forefathers and mothers before us.

Finally, regarding the myth that small districts are not as efficient as far as money is concerned, we seriously question that philosophy. Anyone who has even studied statics knows you can make numbers dance in many ways to show what you may want. In most cases they show only a part of the total picture.

We would like to challenge this legislative session with the task that has never been completed as of yet: that is to make the time and take the effort to fully process and determine all financial aspects of consolidation from all school district that may be involved. Please consider the following:

1. In many cases whether or not money is saved will depend on which other district a school may chose consolidate with. There may not be any money saved if other districts have a higher mill levy and higher expenses.
2. Fixed costs of operating an elementary district will stay the same - the same building is used for both elementary and high school at present. Fewer student would be served under consolidation.
3. Dual transportation systems will be needed due to students being bused to two separate locations.
4. Will this measure save money for one year only or will it generate a long term savings.
5. Our school is in excellent condition and is completely paid for. We could stand an increase in enrollment with no extra cost to the district.

EXHIBIT 15
DATE 1/20/03
HB 143

pg. 3 of 3.

In conclusion, forced consolidation is a short term (at best) beaurocratic fix to save a possible 2 million dollars to help decrease a budget shortfall of three hundred million. Bigger is not better or more efficient. It was proved in the 1960's when my father served as chairman of the Montana School Board Association and served on President Lydon B. Johnson's National School Board Advisory Committee to protect and promote better school systems in the U.S.? They had a vision of better education in Montana and the U.S. 20 some years ago. We have done pretty good so far. Let's not destroy in Montana what people in other states can only envy.

Thank-you.

OUTLOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE 1/20/93
HB 143

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carl Odegard
Mark Moberg
Ken Hagan
Joanne Wirtz
Duane Halland

School District #29
P.O. Box 296
Outlook, Montana 59252
(406) 895-2465/2466
FAX# 895-2466

MICHAEL M. SMITH
Superintendent
BUNKY WIRTZ
Business Manager

EXHIBIT 16
DATE 1/20/93
SB HB 143



"Home of the Bluejays"

January 14, 1992

Emily Swanson
House of Representatives
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Representative Swanson:

These are indeed tough economical times for the state of Montana. As the Legislature grapples with an ever-increasing budget deficit, and weighs public services with civic and moral obligations, the issue of revenue and equitable expenditures becomes less clear and tangible. You, along with your colleagues, are confronted with a multitude of problems shaded in gray, yet are forced to seek black and white answers. If simple solutions were truly that easy to achieve, your time in Helena would be fraught with excitement and accolades.

We are genuinely empathetic with your dilemma. The need to balance the state budget and still provide quality services for the people of our wonderful state is clearly understood by all of us. We openly support your efforts and are dedicated to assisting you during these stressful and troubled times. However, we are also deeply concerned with the quality of education our young children will receive, now and in the future, as well as the quality of life we shall leave for them in Outlook. We must make every possible effort to protect and preserve what we feel is best for our children and our community.

Last week you co-sponsored and submitted a bill (HB143) that would drastically reduce the amount of foundation program monies that high school districts, with less than twenty-five students and within twenty miles of another school district, would receive. The bill seeks to reduce their current foundation program entitlements by 50%. Furthermore, there appears to be an early indication that HB143 may be amended to increase the high school enrollment requirements from twenty-five to forty students. This bill would result in anywhere from five to forty school districts losing 50% of their foundation program monies, as well as reducing their non-voted permissive budget limits by 50%.

PLEASE NOTE: A complete packet of this testimony may be located at the
Historical Society

Richard W. Cameron, Superintendent
Lavina Public Schools
Box 146
Lavina, MT 59046 Ph. 636-2761

Testimony given on HB 143 House Education Committee
January 20, 1993

I appreciate the opportunity to testify against HB 143. This bill would hurt several communities by closing their schools at a time when their enrollments are beginning to grow. We in Lavina have 28 students in High School and will probably have more next year. Our community is starting to grow and we feel we have the right to develop. Closing our school, and that is the bottom line affect of HB 143, would deny to our community the right of economic development. In the past two years people have come to our community because of the small town and the small school. They recognize the advantage of having their children in smaller classes with the opportunity to participate in school activities.

The Lavina Public Schools provide a quality education and a unique opportunity for students to take part in our extra-curricular program. Last year we had seven graduates. Three are enrolled in 4 year colleges and doing very well, one is enrolled in business college and also doing very well, two are serving in the United States Navy, and one is working and preparing to go to college. At the present time we have 14 students in band, 20 in chorus, every boy in high school is involved in the basketball program; they are either playing, managing, or operating the video equipment. We have 10 high school students in student council, one of whom is with us today. Students are not left out at Lavina High School

But my purpose is not to debate statistics or to get into a discussion of small schools versus big schools. This bill may or may not save money. It may just transfer a tax burden. Most consolidation does not lead to a savings in taxes. The charge that small schools are being unduly subsidized by larger areas has its bogus side. The Golden Valley County Treasurer informs me that our county loses money in the foundation program. More tax dollars flow away than come back to the county in the form of ANB. Now who subsidizes whom? We can go on and on about money savings, but even amending this bill to 40 students will not result in a huge savings. Many will be exempt because they are more than 20 miles to another high school.

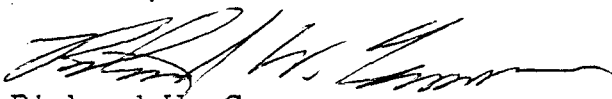
What we must do is focus on kids. On those directly affected by this bill. We can drag out the test scores and compare them to the larger schools. We can compare the success stories of graduates, etc., and go on and on without resolution, but this bill will not help kids. Make no mistake and don't fool yourself into believing it will. It may save money' it will not help students. I have been in high schools of over 1600. Lavina is

the smallest school I have working in. I am very happy that my daughter is attending the Lavina School. She will have at least as great an opportunity at Lavina as she will at a larger school. I believe that she is the neatest little basketball player on earth; she can do anything. But, and it pains me to say this, she probably would not play for a AA school. I hope she doesn't read this in a paper somewhere.

This will hurt kids. It will hurt families. If it saves a few dollars in taxes, it will increase individual family costs in keeping kids in activities, visiting the school, etc. It will not increase the opportunity for students. I suggest that before this committee votes that you give serious consideration to visiting one or more of these schools. Please look at what you do before you do it. You are welcome at the Lavina Schools anytime. We have an excellent lunch program and I'll buy lunch.

If the financial situation in the state of Montana is so dire that we must hurt kids to solve it. it is time to have the strength of your convictions and say that. The small schools in the state of Montana deserve that much.

Thank you,



Richard W. Cameron

EXHIBIT 18
DATE 1/20/93
HB 143

DAVID W. KONECNY
Superintendent

HEDY LYLES
Clerk

pg 1 of 2

WILLOW CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL
SCHOOL DISTRICTS NO. 15 AND J-15-17
407 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 198
WILLOW CREEK, MONTANA 59760
(406) 285-6991

January 20, 1993

House Education Committee
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Chairman Hanson and Members of the
House Education Committee,

I am present at the hearing this afternoon, both on my own behalf and representing the Willow Creek community, to express opposition to HB 143 and to encourage you to kill this bill. While our opposition to HB 143 is based on many reasons, this letter will highlight only four basic reasons for our statement of opposition.

Local control of community schools is essential if schools are to reflect the needs and values that are deemed of importance to the patrons of the community. HB 143 robs the community of local control of their school. It robs from them their right to align educational needs and values with community needs and values because it is at root forced consolidation. The perceived option to match one-half of the foundation program dollars is in reality no option.

Secondly, HB 143 fails to answer one question that must be the basis for any decision that deals with our public schools. "Is this decision in the best interests of our young people; is this what is best for our kids and their education?" HB 143 is not in the best interest of our kids. Whether a cut-off be established at 25 students or 40 students or any other number, bigger is no more synonymous with better than smaller is with inferior. The large, economy-priced school is not automatically the best buy.

Thirdly, HB 143 strikes a blow at the cooperative interaction between home and school that underlies effective education. In Willow Creek alone, nearly 50% of next year's

WILLOW CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL
SCHOOL DISTRICTS NO. 15 AND J-15-17
407 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 198
WILLOW CREEK, MONTANA 59760
(406) 285-6991

EXHIBIT 18
DATE 1/20/93
H3 143 pg. 2 of 2

DAVID W. KONECNY
Superintendent

HEDY LYLES
Clerk

high school students will have either a brother or sister or both in the elementary grades. These families will have to send one child out of town to high school while keeping the others at home in their own elementary school. As a parent who would be faced with this myself, I know it will diminish the influence I want to have in the development of my high school age son.

Finally, school consolidation will eventually contribute to a negative economic impact in our small, rural Montana communities. The school is the hub of a small town; it is the one institution that lends a sense of permanency and stability and belonging. Where there is no high school, there will soon be no school period. In years past, communities have seen banks fail, railroads cease, grain elevators close, yet the town survived. When the school closed, however, it was a different story; the life-blood of the town and its economic contribution to the state of Montana simply ceased.

Thank you for allowing me to bring my opinions and feelings to this hearing. I wish you well in your deliberations and in the weighty decisions that lie ahead.

Respectfully,



David W. Konecny
District Superintendent

P.O. BOX 234
WILLOW CREEK, MT 59760
19 JANUARY 1993

To Whom It May Concern,

House Bill 143 is wrong for Montana. If this bill is passed it will shut down schools that have been running for years and have had generations of families graduate from. I am a resident of Willow Creek and a junior at Willow Creek High School. There are several reasons I feel that consolidation is wrong for this community and all of the other small towns in Montana.

The community depends on the school for so many activities. People of all ages find enjoyment in watching the basketball teams play, the students perform at concerts and plays, and other school activities. The school is the center of social life in the community. If you shut the school down, Willow Creek will eventually become a ghost town.

In addition, parents who have children in both the elementary and high school levels will now have a hard time attending their childrens activities because of the split in schools.

At Willow Creek the students are a family. The elementary and the high school students are very close. We are big brothers and sisters to those younger kids. In this family you are not only close to the other kids but to the teachers. They are caring and concerned, and always willing to help, whether it be in school or your personal life. The teachers go that extra mile to make sure you are understanding the material that they are instructing. You can not get that one on one in a bigger school. In fact people from Three Forks have come to Willow Creek to get that quality of education!

In Willow Creek you also do not have a hard time trying out for sports or other activities and there aren't any social cliques that might create a lot of negative peer pressure. If you shut down this school and all the other small schools, you will be putting many teachers out of work and since jobs are scarce enough in Montana, the chances of these teachers staying in state are slim.

I am the daughter of a retired Navy man. I have experienced larger schools and the education, food, teachers and people are better in Willow Creek. I have never stayed in a school more than two years in a row and now that I have finally found a place that I know I am not going to have to leave, I am forced to face the fact that the school that I have spent the most time in and have come to love, might be shut down after my junior year. I will again have to move. I want to be able to see my picture on the wall next to my grandparents and great-grandparents.

I am asking you to consider all of this when looking at bill 143.


NAIDA ALLEN

Darby Trim
Box 161
Willow Creek, MT 59760

To whom it may concern:

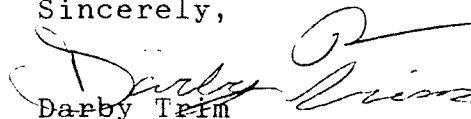
On Tuesday, January 12, the Bozeman Daily Cronicle produced an article containing a proposition, founded by Wilbur Spring and carried out by Emily Swanson, to cut funds to five of the smallest schools in Montana. When I found out about this my heart sank I have been part of the school system for nine years, through good times and bad. I have seen people who no longer have children here fight for nothing more than the good of the school, and elderly people leave their house to help in the building of our playground. This community cares and wants to see their children and sometimes even grandchildren share in the type of small school care that they were fortunate enough to take part in.

The problem with drugs plaguing our schools throughout the country is a problem that also must be brought up. I know each and every student attending Willow Creek and I know them closely. Willow Creek High School, in my mind, is the one and only school in Montana which is "Drug Free". I have spent time in both Three Forks (our alternative) and Willow Creek and I know about problems there. The safety and security found here should not be taken away from our students.

This school is home away from home to me and I think, from experience, that students have the urge to learn when put in the situation that they learn from people (teachers and others) that they have grown with and who have grown right along with them.

Last year my parents closed their business (Trim's Meats) and moved to Washington because of the lack of money in our state. I stayed because of my love for Montana and Willow Creek. I believe that the closing of the school would be shortly followed by the disappearance of the place where I have grown up.

Sincerely,


Darby Trim

Box 45
Bainville, Montana
January 20, 1993

Attn: House Education Comm.

Subject: HB 143

I have farmed and ranched in the Bainville community for 20 years. I have 3 children enrolled in the Bainville school system. They are getting an excellent education plus they must participate in extra curricular activities. Bainville is a family oriented school. Parents participate, help with student events, attend as spectators and serve as judges, piano players, etc.

This type of activities for parents will not stop with our students in another school system. But miles of travel to be involved will increase 3 to 5 times in distance to participate. This alone will constitute quite an added expense to me and other parents. I would rather pay higher taxes. The children will also be required to ride a school bus these extra miles which in turn will be over the time limit law to be on a bus. The extra travel time will limit their time to be involved in other activities that are part of a good education. I thought the state was sued to make educational opportunities equal. In a smaller school the students tend to police their peers. Drugs are not the in thing. In larger schools this is not true. The children are not close and all friends. Is it not less expensive to prevent a problem then pay to cure it after it happens?

The state will not save money by consolidation. You remove a school or part of a school from a community, it changes the traffic patterns. The people patternize the businesses they travel past. The businesses in the consolidated community lose business and die. People move out, usually to a different state. There goes state tax revenues. The buildings stand empty and become a tax property of the county. There goes your REAL ESTATE TAX revenue. The teachers and classified personal are ruffed by the consolidation. There goes more INCOME TAX revenues. You then decide to raise property taxes to off set the loss. But there is a limit to the amount of taxes a business or farm can stand to cash flow before they too become insolvent and the cycle starts over again. You have only passed the same problem on to your sucessor in ten years.

EXHIBIT 21
DATE 1/20/93
#B 143

Eastern Montana is a Ag based economy. You should be stimulating that economy. The money spent to do this would be returned to the economy of the state at least 7 TIMES. Doctors sometimes have to cut off a leg to save a life. Chopping off the Ag sector of Montana's economy will not save our states life. The FEDERAL GOVERNMENT has done just that and look at our US economy. CRP crippled rural communities and a great share of Montana. The income left the state. Arizona loves it! That is just one example. Must our state legislators mimic WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATS, picking on the small to feed the big, push the rural into the cities so they can starve on the streets in shame, ignore the majority to cater to a select few, all this in the name of a balanced budget with more government and less rights for the people paying the bills and taxes.

Vince Anderson
Linda Anderson

EXHIBIT 22
DATE 1/20/93
143

Jan 19, 1993

Dear Mr. Hanson

We are writing to you today,
because we are very concerned
about what might happen to our
School if House Bill #143 was to
pass.

We are sad because our class
may have to split up and go to
different Schools.

We don't understand how you think
you will save money by closing our
School, because 40 taxpayers will
lose their jobs.

We will lose our community
activities and friends.

Please think of each of us
before you vote.

Thank you for your time.

Bainville School's Third grade.

Sincerely,

Jess Romo,

Beau Picard,

Jake Pacovsky,

Beth Hansen, Linda Lutz, Ms. Hansen

Forney Smucker, John Smith

Casey Pacovsky, TRACI Pacovsky, Courtney

EXHIBIT 23

DATE 1/20/93

BB 143

Jan. 19, 1993

Dear Mrs. Hanson,

Would you please not close
our school? We really need our school.
The school really means alot to
us. I think that our school has
a real good education plan. We
really like the teachers here. We
like the kids here because they
never fight. We feel that we have
learned more at our school because
there aren't many kids in the class.

WE LOVE OUR SCHOOL

Sincerely,
Jordan Knudsen
Paul Berwick
Timothy
Cody Lacourte
S. Smith

The Hanson
Mrs. Hanson

1-18-93
Boinville, MT

①

To Whom it May Concern:

In regards to the hearing on consolidation B.11-H.B. 143 to be held on Wednesday, 1-20-93 at 3⁰⁰ pm: I regret that due to job obligations I cannot attend the hearing, however I certainly have strong feelings against the passing of this bill.

I moved to Boinville 5 1/2 years ago with the main goal of raising my three school-aged children in a small town with the advantage of attending a small school. I was impressed with the caliber of education Boinville was providing for the students in this area. I still have two students attending school here - the 3rd grader with an A average and is maintaining that average in her 3rd year of college. I strongly prefer to allow my two sons to complete their high school education in Boinville; however, if our school was forced to consolidate and my sons were to be bussed to a neighboring school, I would not hesitate to relocate to Williston, North Dakota where I am employed - thus removing my children from a Montana District altogether.

Also, I know of several other families who are raising their children here for similar reasons and most likely would also relocate to Williston. We also have several students from inside North Dakota whose parents have opted to send them to Boinville to take advantage, once again, of our small but very efficient school system. We would certainly lose these students to North Dakota schools also. (Some live within 1-5 miles of a North Dakota school but travel 30 miles to Boinville.)

by choice - which says a lot for our

Our School is only 6 1/2 years old and what a shame it would be to close it down, not to mention the cost for those who cannot relocate (farmers, etc) who would have to foot the bill for extra busing and additional driving to extra curricular activities, as well as expenses for additions to existing School buildings.

All three of my children have expressed an appreciation for the chance to attend school at Bonville rather than having moved to Williston, ND 5 1/2 years ago - the two remaining in school have voiced a concern at having to change schools before graduating.

I sincerely hope it will be taken into consideration all the factors of increased costs to consolidate: bus transportation, adding on to existing buildings to accommodate more students in other districts, and the cost to taxpayers and families when they choose to completely uproot themselves and move to a ~~new~~ location more convenient for schooling their children - which in Bonville's case would probably not be in Montana.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely

Ruth E. Horst

Box 108

Bonville, MT

Parent & School Board member

We, the undersigned, request that the House Education Committee kill House Bill 143. We students want to keep Lavina High School.

EXHIBIT 25

DATE 1/20/93

HB 143

Matthew P. Adams

Ben Leifeldt

Brad Debraudner

Bill Hickey

Mike Tenka

Brook D'Santi

Christopher Lofelt

Marley Shoop

~~Kevin Camp~~

Sia Linker

Melissa Adams

Colleen Thom

Sarah Tate

April Wallis

Angie Kelgo

Corinna Cole

Jennifer Harmon

~~Larry J. P. Smith~~

~~Sam W. Walker~~

Nicole Hutchinson

Clint Jensen

Justin Hamilton

Key Ege

Charles Schilling

~~Kevin Koon~~

Eby Leifeldt

Brock Bilden

Steven Brown



REED POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 338 • Reed Point, Montana 59069
High School 406-326-2245 • Elementary 406-326-2228

Superintendent:
Rod Olson

Clerk:
Dianne Booth

Board of Trustees:
David Ott, Chairman
Jan Morgan Terry
Jim Trees
Terry Little

January 20, 1993


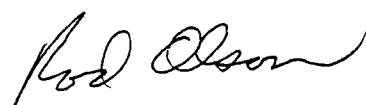
EXHIBIT 26
DATE 1/20/93
AB 143

Testimony in Opposition to H.B. 143

David Ott, Board Chairman
Rod Olson, Superintendent
Reed Point Schools

1. H.B. 143 discriminates against students attending small high schools by not equally funding the foundation program per the current schedule. The funding penalty would hurt students as well as taxpayers in those districts. Taxpayers in small districts already pay their share to help support the Foundation Program. They do not receive any G.T.B. aid, therefore some of their tax dollars go to districts receiving G.T.B. They would, in essence, be taxed double to keep their school if this bill is passed.
2. The Reed Point School District has made a commitment to the future education of their children by passing a \$900,000 bond issue to build a new grades 6-12 school to replace outdated, deteriorating facilities. The funding penalty would create an unbearable burden for local taxpayers who have already made a strong commitment to support their school. Local control is vital to education in Montana.
3. The school is located on Interstate 90, 18 miles west of Columbus and 23 miles east of Big Timber. The longest bus route extends 11 1/2 miles north over poor roads. It would be a hardship for students and parents to travel any farther than they do now to transport their children to another school.
4. The dollar savings of consolidation is very small for the sacrifice on the part of students and local taxpayers in rural Montana communities. We urge you not to impose this funding penalty on small high schools.

Respectfully submitted,

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

OPPOSE HB 143

EXHIBIT 27 A
DATE 1/20/93
SB HB 143

JANUARY 20, 1993

EXHIBIT

Carri S. Scott
P.O. Box 225
Willow Creek, MT 59760

27

Brad Robinson
P.O. Box 84
Willow Creek, MT 59760

28

Garrett Ward Ness
P.O. Box 242
Willow Creek, MT 59760

29

Paula Munoz
P.O. Box 53
Three Forks, MT 59752

30

Vernon Pacovsky
P.O. Box 44
Bainville, MT 59212

31

Dave & Dixie Harmon
Bainville, MT 59212

32

Christopher R. Horob
P.O. Box 108
Bainville, MT 59212

33

Audra Martin

34

Monica Manning

35

Kevin Conyers
P.O. Box 698
Culbertson, MT 59218

36

Dana Berwick
P.O. Box 25
Bainville, MT 59212

37

Kathy Dighans
Bainville Schools
Bainville, MT 59212

38

Jo Dell Tonjum
Kindergarten & Resource Room Teacher
Bainville, MT 59212

39

PLEASE NOTE: This complete list and exhibits 27 through 63 may be located
at the Historical Society

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

Education COMMITTEE BILL NO. HB 177
DATE 1-20-93 SPONSOR(S) Bird

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Sydney Brannon	MASBO		X
Harry Stollfuss	MACSS		X
Bruce W. Gower	MSBA		X
Anna Fugate	SAAM		X
Kitty Logan	Swan Valley School		X
Jack Barrows	MACSS		X
KARL ROOSA	POWER COUNTY SCHOOLS		X
Warren Morehouse	L + C County Schools		X
Cort HARRINGTON	Mont. County Treasures Association		X
Darlene Morris	MAEO		X
Mary Ann Brown	Gallatin County		X
Wm W. Klinefelter	Chenais & Clark County		X
Jack Capps	OPI		

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

Education & Cultural Resources
COMMITTEE
BILL NO. HB 177
DATE 1/20/93
SPONSOR(S) REP. BIRD
PLEASE PRINT
PLEASE PRINT
PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Warryl Omsberg Cut Bank	Co. Supt. of Schools		X
Don Geer Cut Bank	Glauber County Comm.		X
Sheila Koepke Cut Bank	Mt. View Elem SD #64 - District Clerk		X
Allan R. Lowry Cut Bank Reg.	Glauber County Commissioner		X
Rudolph Beatty MT.			
Gwyn Andersen Teton County	Co Supt of Schools		X
Rosalie English	Boz. MT		X
L. B. Johnson	George Int.		X
David H. Peterson	Madith Gap ^{Parent} School		X
Don Latham	Frenchtown	X	
Jacob G. Walter Box 2334 RR 2 Swanton MT	Spring Creek Colony School Box 104		X
Shirley Barnick	Fergus Co Supt of Schools		X
Joe Wester	Willow Creek Schools		X
Narcia Olsen Harrison	Toole County		X

**PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

Education & Cultural Resources

COMMITTEE

 BILL NO. HB 173

 DATE 1/20/93

 SPONSOR(S) REP. KADAS

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
John J McNeil SAVAGE	SAVAGE-Schools		X
Jenny Rice	Savage Seniors		X
George Rice	Savage Seniors		X
Dean A. Peterson	Mt Farmers Union + Ind. th Gap School		X
Joan V. Miller	Ind. th Gap School		X
Dianna R. Kothman	Ind. th Gap School		X
Robert E. Peterson			
-Jack Capps	OP I	X	

**PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

Education

COMMITTEE

BILL NO.

HB 177

DATE 1-20-93 SPONSOR(S) Bird

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Rachel Veneux	Missoula County		X
Rep Harriet Hayne	Glacier Co.		X
Norby Stueb	Jefferson Co		X
Joanna Brannon	Libra High School		X
Rep Bob Clark	H.D. 31		X
Isabel Zuck	Lib. Clark		X
Bill Tash	Rep. HD 73		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR REGISTER**

Education & Cultural Resources

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 143

DATE 1/20/93

SPONSOR(S) REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Kurt J. DYER BRADY, MT.	Brady School Dist.		X
Don Waldress	MREA		X
Norman Hagan	Lambert Schools		X
Gerri BAKES	LAMBERT SCHOOL		X
Rev Gebhardt - Sidney, MT	LAMBERT School		X
Amy Fisher	Lambert School		X
Mary R. Vaira	Lambert School		X
MATT SCHRIVER	Lambert School		X
Nolan Fisher	Helena MT		X
Edward R Fisher	Helena MT		X
Beulah English	Rev. MT		X
Bern Jean Nieme	Rev. MT		X
Al Thiessen	Lambert MT		X
Robert Lange	Savage MT		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

Education COMMITTEE BILL NO. HB 143
DATE 1/20/93 SPONSOR(S) Rep. Swanson

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
HENDRIK HUIGEN	DISTRICT 15J Willow Creek School 17		✓
Angie Huigen	District 15J Willow Creek School 17		✓
Mary Ellen Jensen	H.S. Willow Creek Dist 15		✓
Keith E Jensen	H.S. Willow Creek Dist 15		✓
Lenna Sue Wester	High School Willow Creek Dist #15		✓
Mark Albert	Willow Creek School		✓
Ernest Mes	Willow Creek School		✓
Don Forsberg	Willow Creek School		✓
Paul Saklani	Willow Creek School		✓
Garrett Mager	Willow Creek School		✓
Frank Salenka	Willow Creek School		✓
Arvid Gjovik	Willow Creek School		✓

**PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

EDUCATION

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 143

DATE 1/20/93

SPONSOR(S)

REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Jacob J. Walter	Spring Colony School Box 2235 RR 3rd Laramie WY		X
Jan A. Gibson	Judith Gap Mt Farmers Laramie		X
Shirley Barrick	Fergus Co Supt of Schools		X
Rob Hoppner	Rye Creek Schools		X
David Parish	"		X
Trudy McLean	Willow Creek School		X
Joe Wester	Willow Creek School		X
Theresa Linn	Willow Creek School		X
W. W. Allen	Willow Creek		X
Elmer L. Oaks	Willow Creek		X
Richard W. Cameron	Laramie Schools		X
Synda Brannon	MFSBO		X
Daniel Konecny	Willow Creek Schools		X
Barry McLean	Willow Creek School		X

**PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

EDUCATION

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 143

DATE 1/20/93 SPONSOR(S) REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Carl Jensen	Larina		X
Ben Lehfeldt	Larina		X
Bruce W. Meyer	MSBA		X
Ken McLean	Willow Creek		X
Lora Frazier	SAM		X
SHARON SATTERWHITE	Willow Creek School		X
Trudi Peterson	Judith Gap		X
Duane Korthuis	Judith Gap		X
John Lambert	Bainville		X
Vance Anderson	Bainville		X
Ruthie Horob	Bainville		X
Darrell Giese	Bainville		X
Clark W Gable	Bainville		X
James Miller	Adams Co Schools		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE BILL NO. 2/B 143
DATE 1/20/93 SPONSOR(S) REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Donna Miller	Bainville		X
Keith Berwick	Bainville		X
Michael Vondra	Willow Creek School		X
Dan B. Schedel	Willow Creek School		X
Kim McLean	Willow Creek School		X
Dean Harmon	Bainville		X
Debra E. Bracher	Bainville		X
Julie Beecher	Cohagen		X
Steve Pluhor	COHAGEN		X
Elise O. O'Connell	Road Riot		X
Deanne Wright	Resident		X
Cindy Morgan	Resident		X
David C. Morgan	Resident		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

EDUCATION

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 143

DATE 1/20/93 SPONSOR(S) RFP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Kate Treas	Reed Point		X
Jim Treas	Reed Point		X
Eileen Brumm	Reed Point		X
Steve Ott	Reed Point		X
Emilee Goddard	Reed Point		X
Elizabeth Knutson	Reed Point		X
Kay C Cain	Chr. Hellgate El. Messnrs		✓
Don Spritzer	" " "		X
Craig Brewington	Supt " " "		X
R. L. Beaulieu	Supt Geyser Pub. Sch.		X
Dutch Knutson	Trustee - Geyser		X
Red Olson	Supt. Reed Point		X
Julie Lutke	Reed Point		X
Norma P. Grakofsky	Pondora SD #31-		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE BILL NO. HB 143
DATE 1/20/93 SPONSOR(S) REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Don Jermunson	Brady School Dist #19		✓
Gladys (Pinkie) Thawt	Brady School Dist #19		✓
Boni A. Bishop	Brady School Dist 19		✓
Ruby Willey	Brady School Dist 19		✓
Jayne Elwess	Brady School Dist. 19		✓
Bernadette Sieler	Brady School Dist. -19		✓
Dale M. Copelan	Brady School Dist 19		✓
Jim Palmer	Brady School Dist. #19		✓
Alice Tranner	Brady School Dist 19		✓
Dave Forsman	BRADY SCHOOL DIST 19		✓
Rick Denzer	Brady School Dist 19		✓
Ian Forsman	Brady School Dist #19		✓
Gay Forsman	Brady School Dist. 19		✓
Kurt Dyer	Brady School Dist 19		✓

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

EDUCATION

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 143

DATE 1/20/93 SPONSOR(S) REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Melanie Huckaba Three Forks, MT 59752	Willow Creek School		X
HELEN HARSARKER WILLOW CREEK	WILLOW CREEK SCHOOL " " " " " "		X
Everett Graiff Willow Creek	Willow Creek School		X
Phonida Buchallens Carlisle, MT	Willow Creek School		X
Chrystal Crowe Willow Creek	Willow Creek School		X
Luke Wester Willow Creek	Willow Creek School		X
Denny Peltier Willow Creek	Willow Creek		X
Doreen Trum... Willow Creek	Willow Creek		X
Nancy Nesbit W.C.	Willow Creek		X
Beth McLean	Willow Creek		X
Kami Henry W.C.	Willow Creek School		X
Matt Phillips	Willow Creek school		X
Walter Phillips	Willow Creek school		X
Will Phillips, Willow Creek, MT	Willow Creek school		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE BILL NO. HB 143
DATE 1/20/93 SPONSOR(S) REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Gula Skolrud Box 272 Kris Skolrud Willow Creek, MT	Willow Creek Public School		X
Dallas Schedel	Willow Creek		X
Beau McLean	Willow Creek		X
KRL STYD Emerson	Willow Creek		X
Rosa Smith	Willow Creek		X
Sara Galgerud Box 203 Tina Galgerud Willow Creek	Willow Creek School		X
Blake Malone	Willow Creek		X
Travis Williams Willow Creek	Willow Creek		X
Billy Hughes	Willow Creek		X
TYLER Williams	Willow Creek		X
Chris Lindeman 505 N. Kennedy Belgrade	Willow Creek Schools		X
Deirdre Pilleoff 25060 W. Bridge 3 Forks	Willow Creek School		X
Ryan Skolrud Box 222 Willow Creek	Willow Creek		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

Education

COMMITTEE

BILL NO.

HB 143

DATE 11-20-93

SPONSOR(S)

Swanson

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Patty Anala Raymond			✓
Linda O'Connor Raymond			✓
Sheila May Baker	Cohagen MT. 59322		✓
Susan Klumpel	Cohagen MT 59322		✓
Jim Kaiser	Heyser School Dist 536		✓
Bev Denning	Vaughn School		✓
Hallie Olson	"		✓
Charlotte Allen	"		✓
Frank McGowan	"		✓
Carol G. Williams	Cohagen Mt. 59322		✓
Konradine Fleiter	Power School Dist-30		✓
Steve Young	Power Schools		✓
Michael M. Smith	Conner Schools		✓
Leona M. Somerfeld	Power Schools		✓

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

EDUCATION COMMITTEE BILL NO. HB143
DATE 1/20/93 SPONSOR(S) REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Linda Bruner	Pondera Co.		X
David Ott Reed Point	Reed Point Mont		X
Joanne Wirtz	Outlook Mt		X
Glen Hageman	Ekalaka mt.		X
Paul O. Legend	Outlook mt.		X
Larry Holifield	Fort Benton MACCS		X
KATHLEEN EATON	MOORE, MT		X
Patricia J. Price	Rosebud, MT		X
RACHEL VIEUX	Missoula County		X
L HAROLD BLATTIE	Rapelye School		X
Betty Blattie	Rapelye School		X
David L. Cole	" "		X
John Zonne	Rapelye School		X
Charles T. Ma	Reed Point School		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

Education COMMITTEE BILL NO. HB-143
DATE 1/20/93 SPONSOR(S) Swanson

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Sandra K. Morris	Power Schools		✓
Medrick Morris	" "		✓
Dean Bauman	Power School		✓
Wm W. Kline	Alachua Creek School		✓
Warren Morehouse	H & C County Fmpt		✓
Linda Nelson	HD 19		✓
Bob Clark	HD 31		✓
Joe Barnett	HD 76		✓
Tom Sparks ^{Alachua Mt} 59344	Taxpayer		✓
Frank Knox	HD 29		✓
Dennis H. Kirk	S.D. 10		✓
H. B. Schumacher	Taxpayer		✓
Larry Truitt	Senator		✓

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

EDUCATION COMMITTEE BILL NO. ¹⁴³ HB ~~140~~

DATE 1/20/93 SPONSOR(S) REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Craig Olsen Three Forks	Willow Creek School		X
Karli Henry WC	Willow Creek School		X
Brad Robinson WC	Willow Creek School		X
Paula Murray Three Forks	Willow Creek		✓
Stephanie Ypma WC	Willow Creek School		X
Carla Albert	Willow Creek School		X
Janet Narbaugh	Willow Creek School		X
David Konecny	Willow Creek School		X
Kristi Kuntz	Willow Creek School		X
Amanda Huigen	Willow Creek School		X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

EDUCATION

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 143

DATE 1/20/93

SPONSOR(S) REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Carric Yomo	Willow Creek		✓
Sara Allen	Willow Creek		✓
Jeanne Bjorndal	Willow Creek		X
Kevin Bjorndal	Willow Creek		X
Mr. C. Allen	Willow Creek		X
Jessica	Willow Creek		X
Cody Skolrud	Willow Creek		X
Craig Grove	Willow Creek		✓
Brian Bjorndal	Willow Creek		✓
Jennifer F. Satterwhite	Willow Creek		✓
P. L. Lull	Willow Creek		✓

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

Education COMMITTEE BILL NO. HB 143
DATE 1-20-93 SPONSOR(S) Swanson

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Jennifer Brannon DEPT. OF	HHS.	✓	
John J. Kleinsasser	School Archer CK		✓
Bonnie Gruell	self.		✓
Develyn Helen	Dutton High School		✓
Wm W. Kleinsasser	Clerk, Dist 27th		✓
Dan P Hofer	Trustee Dist 27th		✓

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

EDUCATION

COMMITTEE

BILL NO.

HB 143

DATE

1/20/03

SPONSOR(S)

REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Susan Hughes 2194 Breeze Way Rd Three Forks	Willow Cr School		✓
Rick Hughes 2194 Breeze Way Rd Three Forks MT	Willow Cr School		✓
Bryan Troppe 307 Main St. Willow Creek	Willow Creek School		✓
Sam S. Hofer, White Sulphur Springdale Elem School			✓
Joe S. Hofer White Sulphur Springdale Elem School			✓

**PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

EDUCATION

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 143

DATE

1/20/93

SPONSOR (S)

REP. SWANSON

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

[illegible]

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.