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NEWS RELEASE

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LOVE CANAL MOM TO LECTURE ON NATION'S SUPERFUND PROGRAM

MISSOULA—

Lois Gibbs, the woman who struggled to save her community from a toxic-chemical dump in Love Canal, N.Y., in the 1970s, will present a lecture at 7 p.m. Monday, March 11, in the North Underground Lecture Hall at The University of Montana.

The lecture is titled "Twenty-five Years After Love Canal: Reflections on the Evolution of the Superfund." The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by UM's Environmental Studies Program with support from the Wiancko Family Fund, the UM Visiting Scholars Program and the National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

Gibbs played a major role in developing the grassroots environmental justice movement, and she is now executive director of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, based in Falls Church, Va.

In 1978 Gibbs was a 27-year-old housewife who learned her child was attending elementary school on top of a toxic-chemical dump. She founded the Love Canal Homeowner's Association and struggled for more than two years to relocate her community. The experience changed her life, leading to the establishment of the nation's Superfund

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program and launching the environmental justice movement, which contends that people have the right to a clean and healthy environment regardless of race or economic standing.

She went on to found CHEJ in 1981, an organization that has helped more than 8,000 grassroots groups organize with general and technical assistance. She also is the author of two books: "Love Canal" and "Dying from Dioxin." Gibbs also has received numerous awards for her activism, including the 1990 Goldman Environmental Prize, popularly known as the Nobel Prize for the environment. In addition, she has spoken at many conferences and been featured in hundreds of television shows, newspaper articles and textbooks.

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