

House Bill 308
January 27, 2005
Presented by Jeff Hagener
House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

EXHIBIT 11
DATE 1-27-05
NO. 308

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Jeff Hagener, Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

The intent of this bill is make permanent the provisions that allow private entities to lease water for instream flow to benefit fish and wildlife. FWP also has the ability to lease water for instream flow via a willing lessee-willing lessor arrangement. We have found this program to be helpful and consider it an important and successful program.

We are familiar with the efforts of Trout Unlimited to obtain instream flows under the existing program and are supportive of their efforts. We believe that some individuals would prefer to work with a private entity, such as Trout Unlimited, rather than a state agency. This legislation would make permanent that opportunity. We support this legislation.