EXHIBIT 11
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HB 235

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Block Management Program

Testimony presented by George A. Bettas,

Member, Private Land/Public Wildlife Council,

House Fish and Game Committee,

February 1, 2005

Through extensive public input and council deliberation, full consensus was reached among Council members that the Block Management program should be made permanent, but it also needed to be enhanced in order to increase landowner participation and expand hunter access.

This consensus was based upon:

- Hunter participation numbers have increased annually as more landowners have enrolled in the program and improvements have been made to the program.
  - In 2002 and 2003, hunter days on Block Management Areas increased by 30,000 each year.
  - Hunter days reached a plateau in 2004, largely due to no increase in total acres in the program.
- Landowner interest in the program remains strong but participation is limited by current funding levels.
  - Increased landowner participation will enable more hunters to participate in the Block Management Program and better distribute the hunting pressure.

- Feedback from hunters using Block Management has documented strong satisfaction among hunters. Landowner feedback mirrors hunter feedback.

  - Hunters pointed out the increasing need to maintain and increase access to public lands;
  - Hunters and landowners noted a need to provide more and better enforcement and patrol of lands open to public access, allowing for better overall management

Super Tag

The Council proposed Super Tag

1. To diversify and add revenue sources for the Block Management program and thereby strengthen the program and insure its success in the future.

    - 75% Variable Priced Licenses
    - 12% Hunting Access Fees
    - 7% Upland Game Bird Licenses
    - 6% Pittman Robertson Funds

2. The Super Tag proposal was selected because:
    - It is a voluntary program
    - Recent success in Idaho for a similar program was well-received by the sportsmen/women and generated significant income in the first year of adoption.
    - The program does not create biological conflicts with herd management in hunting districts with very limited harvest quotas.
    - The program does not detract from current hunter opportunities.

This bill would authorize FWP to market one (1) license valid statewide for each of 5 big game species (moose/sheep/goat/elk/deer) through a lottery system under administrative rules adopted by the Commission that would determine the actual circumstances under which the lottery and license use would occur.

- This proposal is designed to simply create an additional very special hunter opportunity, while at the same time not detracting from current hunter opportunities in the permit drawings, not detracting from current landowner preference rules, and not creating biological conflicts with herd management in hunting districts with very limited harvest quotas.

- Revenue generated through this proposal will only be used to improve hunting access throughout the state. All hunters (resident and nonresident) will gain an additional opportunity to help fund the hunting access programs while also getting a chance to win a very special hunt.