

EXHIBIT 6
DATE _____
HB 318

RESOLUTION NO. 04-01

RESOLUTION OF THE
MONTANA - WYOMING TRIBAL FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Crow / Confederated Salish and Kootenai / Fort Belknap
Fort Peck / Northern Cheyenne / Rocky Boy's / Blackfeet / Wind River

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT MONTANA STATE BILL LC1718, PROVIDING FOR THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL AID IN SPORT FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM REVENUES DERIVED FROM AN EXCISE TAX ON FISHING AND HUNTING EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN THE STATE OF MONTANA BETWEEN THE STATE AND MONTANA TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.

WHEREAS, All tribes in Montana wish to promote the protection and preservation of their fish and wildlife resources through proper management for the use of future generations; and

WHEREAS, The Montana/Wyoming Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission (an organization consisting of representatives, generally Directors of the Tribal Fish and Wildlife Department, from each member Tribe: Crow, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Northern Cheyenne, Rocky Boy's, Blackfeet, and Wind River) was established with the primary goal of aiding in establishment of prudent conservation and management of tribal fish and wildlife resources on reservations and other treaty protected areas in Montana and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive federal legislation created a funding program to help restore and manage fish and wildlife resources throughout the States and sovereign dominions of the United States using taxes on sporting hunting and fishing equipment. The legislation allowing these taxes (The Wildlife Restoration Act and the Sport Fish Restoration Act) collectively known as the Federal Aid Program, and subsequent revenues are administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, A portion of the federal excise taxes on sporting goods paid in Montana is returned to the State to be administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, earmarked for fish and wildlife management in the State; and

WHEREAS, All Montana recreationists buying state hunting and fishing licenses and paying federal excise taxes on licenses and sporting goods, both on and off reservation, contribute to these funds. Tribes and Tribal members in the State contribute to these funds through the purchase of licenses and equipment off reservation as well as through the use of Tribal population, water, and land base to calculate Montana's funding allocation; and

WHEREAS, The State of Montana capitalizes on the land base, water areas, and populations of the seven Montana Tribes to justify and increase their apportionment of these revenues, yet the State has not provided Tribal governments equitable access to these federal funds; and

WHEREAS, The Tribes in Montana find themselves in a similar predicament to the State, with funding restrictions created by increasing resource use and insufficient license fee recruitment, increasing demands on natural resources and ever continuing pressure on and loss of habitat, but with even fewer resources and funds for management; and

WHEREAS, Fish and wildlife management programs on Tribal lands would be greatly enhanced if Tribes were able to receive their rightful apportionment of this tax revenue; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission believes Montana Tribes are entitled to an equitable portion of the federal excise tax revenues from sporting goods for tribal fish and wildlife programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission fully supports passage of Montana State Bill LC1718, providing for the equitable distribution of Federal Aid program revenues derived from excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment purchases in the State of Montana between the State and Montana Tribal Governments.

PASS, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, by the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission this 17th day of December, 2004.

ATTEST:



Jane Roybal, Secretary
MT/WY Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission



Gayle Skunk Cap, Chairman
MT/WY Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the MT/WY Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission, do hereby certify that the MT/WY Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission is composed of 8 members of whom _____ members, constituting a quorum were present during a conference call meeting thereof duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held this 17th day of December, 2004, and that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the affirmative vote of 6 for; 0 opposed; 1 not voting, and 1 absent and that the said resolution has not been rescinded in any way.

Date: 12-17-04



Jane Roybal
Secretary