



EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 2-16-05  
HB 544

Mary Elizabeth Hagemeyer

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Hello my name is Mary Hagemeyer and ***I am in support*** of HB544, the ACT that **WILL** establish a solid and logical foundation upon which creative solutions and new commitments to the wild buffalo in Montana can be built.

My association with this region goes back to 1977 and it has held a special place in my heart since. I moved back to this region permanently in 1989 because ***I needed a place*** like the Greater Yellowstone region to sustain my soul. I believe I speak for the interest of many when I say that ***we need these wild places and these wild animals***. We need to know that somewhere in this world ***"freedom"*** to roam still exists. ***We need it*** to live. The Yellowstone Park and the region beyond are absolutely unique in the world. Nowhere else in ***any*** civilized country is there such a place that is accessible to ***all people***.

I have lived in Livingston, Montana for the past year. I am the General Manager of the Best Western Yellowstone Inn. Prior to moving to Livingston I resided in Gardiner, Montana for 14 years where I also ran a hotel, I am the past president of the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce and I am an active member of Bear Creek Council. I have spent the past 15 years ***listening*** to our visitors from around the world. I have watched the changes it has made in their lives and ours. ***We need*** them for our economy and ***they need*** places like the greater Yellowstone Region with wild, free roaming bison.

I believe you need to think about the position you take today, and know that you ***are going to be held accountable*** by this nation and the rest of the world. When you subtract the subsidies paid to the agricultural industry, tourism is the number one industry in this state. **IT IS what sustains this economy**. The number one item on the ***"must do list"*** the traveling public wants while visiting our region, is to see **WILDLIFE**. Note the operative word, **WILD**-life.

We (mankind) cannot keep playing havoc on our natural environment and expect **ANYTHING** of goodness to come out of it. This time when making taking this very important vote, think globally and long-term, think about what it ***means to live*** in a place so wild and so free, we are blessed by God and put on this earth to be caretakers of it, not master.

Thank you very much.

Mary Hagemeyer  
General Manager  
Best Western Yellowstone Inn  
Former president of the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce  
Member, Bear Creek Council