

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

HB133
3:00PM ROOM 172

1-18-2005

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Jack Knorr, I am the superintendent of Roads and Bridges for Stillwater County.

Stillwater County supports HB133.

We have many Bridges that cross fishable waters.

This issue is not about access to these waters for recreation. This bill addresses the rancher's need to control his livestock.

When we replace a bridge, we must address the retention of livestock for the property owners. Many ranchers do not own the property on both sides of the stream. Therefore they must fence to the bridge abutment to control their stock. Additionally, when stock growers are moving their stock via county roads and bridges, they run into a blind corner when crossing bridges. When fencing is not connected to the abutment, stock will shy away from crossing the bridge and collect in the corner of the fence. Many times beside or even below the bridge. For any of you folks that have moved cattle or sheep across a bridge you know what a nuisance and even a danger that can be to both livestock and the traveling public.

In Stillwater County, we have addressed this issue with walkthrough fence access spots. Thus allowing the recreationalist to access the stream without climbing over the fences as well as retaining the livestock.

As a recreationalist and a Bridge Supervisor, my interests lie in both courts. I for one, have no problem going through a fence along the bridge abutment; and then, putting on my waders to go fishing.

Stillwater County respectfully requests that this committee look favorably on HB133.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Jack Knorr
Supt. Roads/Bridges
Stillwater County
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