

February 17, 2005

Chairman Mark Noennig and Members of the Local Government Committee:

I am Lester Slivka from Winifred and I would like to submit a written statement.

- (A) As a landowner and tax payer I support H.B. 538.
- (B) As a sportsman, outdoorsman, and a licensed hunting guide I support H.B. 538.
- (C) As the acting fire chief for Winifred Rural Fire Department I support H.B.538.
- (D) As a voting member of the Fergus County Fire Council I support H.B. 538.

I feel H.B. 538 would be a win-win bill for many different parties including:

1. Local and county government, as the county has the first responsibility to provide emergency services to the taxpayers.
2. Landowners and taxpayers for the revenue generated by the auction or raffle which will help keep tax's in-check.
3. Hunters as this would give them another chance to hunt an area they have not been successful in drawing a permit for.
4. Local businesses and communities as hunters who come to these permit areas do spend money.
5. Local volunteer ambulance and fire departments which run on very slim budgets.
6. The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department as a way to give back something to the communities and landowners in these permit areas.

I strongly urge the members of the Local Government Committee support H.B. 538.

Thank you for your attention,

*Lester M. Slivka*