SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 3
DATE 1/11/05
BILL NO. SB63

Senate Bill 63
January 11, 2005
Presented by Jeff Hagener, Director
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Jeff Hagener Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

FWP is responsible for enforcing the abandonment of any harvested game animals left in the field. This bill further expands the abandonment section to include game meat left at meat processors. FWP worked with the sponsor to develop some amendments that make SB 63 easier o administer and enforce. With the attached amendments FWP supports this bill and the prosecution of any sportsman whom has purposely abandoned game animals at a meat processor by failing to pay the processing fee and pick up their processed meat.

FWP amendments include the following:

- A written notice sent from the meat processor to the person must be sent by certified mail. The notice shall state that the meat must be paid for and removed from the processing plant within (10) calendar days following the postmarked date on the certified envelope containing the notice. This ensures the meat processor a receipt of postal delivery or confirmation if the person does not receive the written notice.
- County courts may order convicted defendants to pay processing costs directly to the meat processor in addition to the fine for abandoning the meat at the processor. This would eliminate the administrative need for a game sale to be held via public auction and the monies will be directly returned to the processor.

Processed meat confiscated by FWP will be donated to charitble organizations as provided in MCA 87-1-512 (2). FWP currently distributes most of our confiscated game to the Montana Foodbank Network.

6. Page1, lines 25 through 28.
Following: "incurred"
Strike: ","
Insert: "."
Following: "conviction" on line 25
Insert: "or forfeiture"
Following: "section" on line 25
Strike: remainder of line 25 through "appropriate" on line 28
Insert: ", a court may order the defendant to pay all reasonable processing and storage fees within 10 days of conviction or forfeiture"