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SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 1/18/05

BILL NO. SB 186



January 4, 2005

Joe Balyeat  
Montana Senate  
Box 20050  
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Mountains & Rivers Sport Shows, Inc.

Dear Joe:

I am writing to you seeking your help for my small business, the Montana Hunting & Fishing Outdoor Show which are three-day sportsmens expositions held annually in Bozeman, Billings, Great Falls, Missoula and Kalispell. In an effort to improve the quality of my shows I added a new feature called, "Heads & Horns" which is a trophy buck contest. After working on it for awhile I was informed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks that there are laws prohibiting such contests where ribbons, trophies and prizes are awarded based on an animals size. I was bummed, to say the least, because these contests are held annually at other sport shows across the country in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, the Midwest, and the Eastern U.S.

I'm still going to do a watered-down event called, "Heads & Horns" but I have no incentive for hunters to bring down and enter their really big trophies and keeping them on display (other than getting a free score and possible entry into the new Record Book for Montana Big Game. I have prize drawings but anyone can enter for those.

I contacted my previous representative Scott Sales and also Joe Balyeat and they were kind enough to help me try and modify this law. I'm not asking for much, I only wish to be able to have contests such as those in other states. Is there anything you can do in the legislature to help pass a bill revising the law which will enable me to hold trophy contests during my show season of January, February and March? If you can help me get this modification it would help my small business create a fun, annual community event for sportsmen. It would also help me possibly get sponsors to help support the event (currently I get only donated prizes).

I think its obvious that awarding ribbons, trophies or small prizes in trophy buck contests during the first quarter each year will have zero negative effect on wildlife. It sure doesn't seem to harm the wildlife in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, the midwest and back East because they have trophy buck contests all the time!

I have enclosed some miscellaneous info, photos from the Spokane's Heads & Horns contest plus a letter I sent to a hunting expo producer and his thoughts.

I sure hope you can help me modify this law and help my small Montana business!

Sincerely

Bill Reier, Jr.  
Your Humble, Norwegian-American Sport Show Producer

*Hi Joe,  
I just thought I'd send  
this letter for you guys in  
the committee.*