



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

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SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO. 5

DATE 3/3/05

BILL NO. HB 79

Mr. Joe Tropila
Chair, Senate Fish and Game Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

March 3, 2005

Chairman Tropila and members of the Committee,

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) would like to express its support for HB 79, a bill to make the Habitat Acquisition Program permanent. RMEF is an international wildlife conservation organization with a membership of over 150,000 members, including nearly 12,000 Montanans. Members include conservationists, landowners, hunters, and volunteers who all support our mission which is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat. The organization's top priority has never changed, offsetting habitat loss which is the principle threat to elk country in Montana and across the West.

We have partnered with the Habitat Acquisition program to conserve several important pieces of elk country in Montana and look forward to more partnerships in the future. We believe that the program has been hugely successful and that it is time for it to be made permanent.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on HB 79 and urge you to support it.

Sincerely,
Jim Gladen
Jim Gladen
Vice-President of Lands & Conservation Department
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

