SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 3
DATE 3/15/05
BILL NO. HJ 30

House Joint Resolution 30
March 15, 2005
Presented by Jeff Hagener
Senate Fish and Game Committee

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

FWP stands in support of House Joint Resolution 30, which calls for an interim study to review the programs and statutes in Montana and other states, which create hunting license preferences for landowners.

This resolution is similar to one of the general recommendations offered by the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council (Council) to the Governor and 2003 Legislature. The Council offered that recommendation in explanation for their decision that year to not bring forward a proposal for a new kind of landowner-sponsored elk license. In their report, the Council stated the "current complexity of the existing system of special licenses and landowner license incentives needs review and evaluation before more are added."

This session, the House Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Committee discussed two other bills, House Bills 486 and 516, which were related to this topic of landowner preference, license incentives, and public hunting opportunities. Neither bill passed out of the committee but the committee requested that these issues be evaluated for possible recommendations to be offered to the 60th Legislature in 2007.

With that in mind, FWP suggests that the Council should be involved with the interim study requested in HJR 30. Past Councils have already compiled some of the relevant background material and accomplished some preliminary work, which could assist with such a study.

FWP urges your concurrence with HJR 30.