



Private Land/Public Wildlife

Advisory Council

SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO. 8

DATE 3/31/05

BILL NO. HB 235

March 30, 2005

Members 2003-2005

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RE: HB 235 - Representative Michael Lange
TO: Senate Fish & Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Darlyne Dascher, PL/PW Chair.

The Private Land/ Public Wildlife Council is a group of 15 citizens from across the state representing landowners, sportsmen and outfitters. Our council is appointed by the governor to evaluate and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature regarding the Block Management Program.

This council was first appointed in 1993 after a very contentious fight in the legislature. Then governor Marc Racicot appointed the first PL/PW Council which came before the 1995 legislature with recommendations which resulted in the current Block Management Program. The work of this first council was often referred to as a miracle to find common ground among such a diverse group. Everyone had to be willing to give up something with probably no one getting everything they wanted. What a consensus that resulted in!

Our current Council has worked this past 18 months to put forth the recommendations that Representative Michael Lange has presented in HB 235, which proposes new and additional funding sources and incentives for the Block Management Program. We discussed various funding sources among ourselves and the public and came to the consensus that the proposed new funding sources would help stabilize the Block Management Program.

Our current system of Block Management is the envy of many western states who are trying to set up their own hunting access programs. Please do not do anything to cause a reduction of this program with an excellent 10 year record. I have worked with FWP for the past 10 years to help with relations between landowners, sportsmen and outfitters and feel that passage of HB 235 would be greatly appreciated by the people of Montana.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter and for all your hard work.

Darlyne Dascher, PL/PW Chair

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