

Senate Bill 112
March 13, 2007
Presented by M. Jeff Hagener
House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3.13.07
SB 112

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the record, I am Jeff Hagener, Director of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here today in support of SB 112.

FWP recognizes the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and agrees with Senator Lewis that granting free fishing and upland bird hunting privileges to service members who have been awarded the Purple Heart is an appropriate gesture of Montanans' gratitude. Governor Schweitzer has included a similar provision in SB 166, which is also before this committee.

We also appreciate Senator Lewis including a provision in SB 112 that provides for the general license account to be reimbursed from the general fund for the costs associated with these free privileges. That's an important element of this bill, because it ensures that all Montanans, not just Montana's hunters and anglers, are contributing in honoring our wounded service men and women. This is an important principle for this, and several other, bills this session and will help FWP keep its commitment not to raise license fees again until at least the 2011 session.

FWP urges your support for SB 112.