

**HEARING ON HJ 3 - Sponsored by Rep Musgrove  
January 10, 07**

**Testimony by Bob Sivertsen, Hwy 2 Assoc, President  
Mr Chairman and Members of the Committee.**

On behalf of the Hwy 2 Assoc Brd and the numerous supporters in the region, I rise in support of HJ 3.

To save time I will make a brief statement and will submit a copy of my prepared remarks.

Establishing a 24 Hr Port at Wild Horse, 35 mi North of Havre, is in the Regions best interest.

The Region I speak of consists of Montana, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The Port of Wild Horse provides access to goods and services on both sides of the border.

Its important to realize that the Region is rich in natural resources and is an important bread basket of North America and the World.

In my frequent journeys north, over the last 50 years, I have always marveled at how progressive and industrious our neighbors are.

When you have Alberta and Saskatchewan bordering Montana one couldn't have better neighbors.

A 24 Hr Port of Wild Horse will enhance commerce and trade as well as nurture lasting friendships.

Consider these facts:

\* Of the approximately 90 billion that Alberta exports each year, over 90% is destined for the US.

\* The US is dependant on foreign oil. Alberta and Saskatchewan is the closest and most trusted supplier of that oil.

\* The Oil Sands in Northern Alberta, near Ft McMurry, is being developed at an accelerated rate. It is estimated that 115 to 125 billion will be invested in the next 9 years. Production will increase from the present 800 bpd (barrels per day) to an estimated 3.2 million bpd. The reserves are estimated at 7 trillion barrels. The current and planned pipeline capacity will not be adequate so transportation by rail and tanker trucks is being considered.

One plan being studied by Alberta is to construct a haul road from Ft McMurry, South on Hwy 41 and 63 to the Port of Wild Horse and into Havre on Hwy 232, (approx 600 mi).

Alberta will not commence construction unless there is a 24 hr port.

\* This planned development will offer Montana some great opportunities, such as Upgraders for the heavy crude and Oil Refineries. Governor Schweitzer has voiced his support and has been working with officials in the industry to expedite the process.

\* HJ 3 is in keeping with the efforts of the Montana – Alberta Bi-Lateral Committee, of which Rep Musgrove is a member, and many others who are working to improve relations and create efficiencies in commerce and trade as well as cross border travel.

\* The Port of Wild Horse is located a few miles to the West of the Alberta - Saskatchewan Line. I draw attention to this because I predict that Saskatchewan will be the next hot spot in the region, Mt, Ab, Sk & ND, for Economic Development. The Province is beginning to develop its Oil Sands and is rich in other natural resources to include the largest Uranium Deposits in the world, Gold and Diamonds. Saskatchewan is a progressive and productive Agricultural Province .

\* Alberta and Saskatchewan are Montana's friends and neighbors and trading partners.

\* The Robust Economy in Alberta and the emerging growth in Saskatchewan will have a positive impact on Montana's Economy. Montana needs to be connected and engaged.

\* The Region, Mt, Ab, Sk & ND, have what the rest of the world needs and wants. The Region is considered by some to be a sleeping Economic Giant. In Conclusion:

Sweet Grass, North of Shelby, is the only 24 hr port on the border between Montana and Alberta.

The Economic Activity in the Region justifies a need for the 24 Hr Port at Wild Horse.

The timing is perfect, with the support of the Legislature, we will ask Gov Schweitzer and Mt's Congressional Delegation to seek approval and authorization of the 24 hr port in the US Congress.

I encourage this committee to give favorable consideration to HJ 3.

Thank You

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