

Exhibit No. 1Date 4-10-07 #2Bill No. HB 343

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
 BRIAN JUDY, MONTANA STATE LIAISON

February 6, 2007

TO: Members, House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Brian Judy, NRA – ILA State Liaison

RE: House Bill 343 - **SUPPORT**

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On behalf of the more than 27,000 Montana members of the National Rifle Association, I urge your support for HB 343, the measure that would appropriate funds for state participation in a lawsuit against the federal government regarding wolf-delisting.

There is substantial evidence that wolves are taking a terrible toll on game populations, especially elk. In communicating with hunters, outfitters and guides in states such as Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, the rate of hunter success has decreased significantly in just over two years and they have determined that the explanation is the explosive wolf population, based upon the tracks they have found. Winters have been harsh and browse has been good, especially when it comes to calves – wolves no longer contain themselves to preying on the old and the infirm elk.

It's the NRA's belief that wolves have their place in the natural ecosystem but their numbers have to be controlled in the same manner as all other animals. The best means of control is through regulated hunting.

Without a change, sport hunting will be seriously harmed, as has been experienced in neighboring states.

DISTRIBUTION REQUIRED

Diane Rice

DB

Budd-Falen Law Offices, L.L.C.

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February 2, 2007

Bob Lane
 Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
 1420 East 6th Avenue
 Helena, MT 59620-0701

Mike McGrath
 Office of the Attorney General
 215 North Sanders Street
 Third Floor
 P.O. Box 201401
 Helena, MT 5920-1401

Re: Proposed Litigation Regarding Delisting of Grey Wolf

Dear Sirs:

I represent the Friends of the Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd ("FONYEH") with regard to the proposed litigation regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ("FWS") failure to delist the grey wolf in Montana. As you may know, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), on October 5, 2001, the FONYEH filed a petition to delist the wolf ("petition") with the FWS. The FWS eventually denied the petition on October 25, 2005. As you also know, only those who have filed a "petition to delist" have standing to litigate the denial of that petition and the failure to delist. In this case, in Montana, the only group that has such standing is the FONYEH.

Because of the expense of federal court litigation and the expense to the state of Montana resulting from the wolf, pending before the Montana legislature is House Bill 343. I understand that one of your concerns with the bill is to ensure that if passed, the moneys appropriated by the bill would be properly expended on this litigation. To ensure that these appropriated funds are properly spent and after discussing this matter with my client, I have been authorized to request that you or a designee within your offices, act as co-counsel in this matter to work with this firm to ensure that any federal litigation be properly conducted. That would obviously include your offices' involvement in preparing the complaint, reviewing the administrative record and preparing the necessary motion for summary judgment.

My client has requested that I make this offer to you in the hopes that the interests of my client and the people of Montana can be unified as we work towards delisting the wolf.

DISTRIBUTION REQUESTED
 Diane Rice
 DB

I appreciate your consideration of this offer. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Karen Budd-Falen

Karen Budd-Falen
Budd-Falen Law Offices, LLC

KBF:nec

xc: Bill Hoppe - FONYEH