SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 3
DATE 1-9-07
BILL NO. SB44

Senate Bill 44
January 9, 2007
Presented by M. 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).

I am here to speak in support of Senate Bill 44, a bill that would add antelope, mountain lion, and bison to the list of species for which chances to draw a Supertag may be sold. The Private Land/Public Wildlife Council submitted legislation during the 2005 session, which created the Supertag for elk, deer, moose, sheep, and goat, with revenue directed toward increased public access and law enforcement. In 2006, the first year Supertag chances were sold, nearly $325,000 was generated, allowing for additional landowners to participate in the Block Management Program. We anticipate even more revenue may be generated from Supertag sales in 2007, due to increased buyer awareness and more complete implementation of the program at national sports shows like those hosted by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Safari Club International. Because of the program's initial success and the success of similar programs in other states, the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council has recommended adding other species to help generate additional revenue, noting a continuing need to expand the public hunting access program and provide for better law enforcement. The Department supports the PL/PW Council's recommendations, and asks that you support passage of SB44.