

SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 1-23-07
BILL NO. SB 243

Senate Bill 243
January 23, 2007
Presented by Chris Smith
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Chris Smith, Chief of Staff of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

FWP recognizes the sacrifices our military personnel and their families make on behalf of our country. Providing reduced cost or free hunting and/or fishing privileges is one way the citizens of Montana can show their appreciation for this service and sacrifice.

As with other legislation considered this session, FWP believes it appropriate that the general fund reimburse the department's general license account for the costs associated with any reduced cost or free privileges granted to our military personnel. This assures that all Montanans, not just hunters and anglers, contribute to honoring our veterans. For this reason, FWP recommends that language similar to that incorporated into SB 112 and SB 166 be integrated into SB 243.

FWP also understands that the Section 1, which repeals the \$5 increase in resident fishing license fees adopted by the 2005 legislature was included in SB 243 in error. With amendments to strike Section 1 and reimburse the general license account from the general fund, FWP would support SB 243.