Gerald Kohler
Raymond

William Nyby
Plentywood

Robert Nikolaisen
Plentywood

Clerk
A. Johnson

SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 11
DATE 2-20-07
BILL NO. SB 17

COPY

Office of the
SHERIDAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

100 West Laurel Avenue
Plentywood, MT 59254
Tel: (406) 765-1660 Fax: (406) 765-2602

February 16, 2007

Senator Joe Tropila
Chairman of Senate
Fish and Game Commission
Helena, MT 59601

RE: Senate Bill No. 17

Dear Senator Tropila:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill No. 17, introduced by Lane Larson. It is our hope that you will see the problems with this legislation.

It is our belief that the intended purpose of Section 87-1-247, Mont. Code Annotated was to improve habitat and increase wild bird populations in Montana in order to generate greater outdoor opportunities, improve bird hunting quality and diversity, sustain higher bird harvests, and allow for longer harvest seasons for several species while providing economic benefits to rural Montana communities that cater to upland game bird hunters. Rural communities like ours, benefit economically from upland game bird hunters. These hunters purchase meals, gas, supplies and lodging, supporting local jobs and boosting revenues.

As it is written, Senate Bill No. 17, is a bad bill that will greatly impinge on the positive economic effects of upland game bird hunting and economic benefits to our local communities. Until it substantially addresses the concerns of hunters, landowners and those who benefit from a thriving hunting industry, this bill should not be presented to the Senate for a vote.

We are sure you will receive many passionate appeals regarding this bill and we urge you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Robert Nikolaisen

Robert Nikolaisen
Chairman