

Bob Bergren

From: Jack Reneau [wj@boone-crockett.org]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2007 6:29 PM
To: Bob Bergren
Subject: HB 613 Youth Hunting -- I'm still your volunteer.

Dear Representative Bergren,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for promoting HB 613 to lower the age for youth hunting. Below is what I said about it on the Montana Outdoors blog. I'm still your volunteer if you need someone. I have a power point I can show to groups on youth hunting.

Jack Reneau

1. Jack Reneau Says:
March 12th, 2007 at 9:06 am

It is about time Montana lowered the age for youth hunters. Montana is in the dark ages when it comes to youth hunting. There are at least 32 other states where youth hunters can start hunting below 12 years of age. Most of those states, such as Washington, North Carolina, and Texas have no minimum age limit for hunting anything. Pennsylvania and Ohio are the two most recent states to eliminate any age limit for youth hunting. Montana's proposed change in age limit is far more stringent than either of those states and more so than I would like to see. Other states are considering lowering or eliminating age limits for youth hunters. I have 3 sons and 2 of them took deer in Virginia before they were 12 years old. The age limit to start hunting in Virginia is 9. I was preparing my third son, who was 9 years old for hunting in the fall of 1999 when my company unexpectedly moved to Montana in September. I was obviously pleased about the move, but my 9-year-old son, who was well prepared to hunt, had to wait another 3 years to hunt. That's a long, long time, and there is absolutely NO reason why youth can't hunt before they are 12 except that someone made a law saying they can't. Why is 12 a magical number? Hunter's numbers are declining drastically, and one of the reasons is that youth have too many activities (baseball, soccer, football, computers, video games, girls, boys, drugs, etc.) to get or keep their attention and keep them busy before they are 12. Boys and Girls need to get out and started, the more likely they are to keep hunting and support wildlife conservation. A person who won't be anti-hunters. More importantly, hunters below the age of 12 in states like Montana are the safest group of hunters there is. Their fathers, mothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, etc. personally found that youths are more self-aware of the potential for hunting accidents than carelessly teenagers and 20+ year old hunters where the accident rate is the highest. So that tens of thousands of Montana's youth can get started and experience the joys of hunting much earlier — it's a law that is long overdue.



Bob Bergren

From: Lindbohel@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 1:53 PM
To: BERGREN@bobbergren.com
Subject: HB 613

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to say thank you for the introduction of HB 613. I appreciate the opportunity that passage of this bill would provide to me and my family. Hunting is a rich heritage in Montana and I am glad to see your efforts in trying to promote hunting and in my mind, the family. If I can be of any assistance in any way I would certainly be willing to help out. I can be reached at this e-mail or by phone at (406) 443-0967.

Thank you for your time.

Durand Lindbo

Helena, Montana

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