STATE ADMINISTRATION
Exhibit No. 1
Date 2-2-07
Bill No. SB-285

Senate Bill 285
February 2, 2007
Presented by Jeff Hagener
Senate State Administration Committee

Madam Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Jeff Hagener, Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

I appear in support of Senate Bill 285, which ammends a definition in "2-17-802", to read: "Capitol Complex" means the Capitol building and all the state buildings within a 10 mile radius of the Capitol building but does not include the Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center.

The 2003 Legislature granted authority to FWP for the construction of a wildlife education center near Spring Meadow Lake State Park. The vast majority of the authority, $2.6 million, was authority to spend private dollars on the project.

We have found that one of the most appealing opportunities for private donors is to have a part of the Center named for them. We had a $2 million matching grant agreement with a private donor contingent upon the Education building being named after them. We later learned of the prohibition in 2-17-802, which prohibits the naming of a state building, space or room within the Capitol Complex after an individual unless the individual has been deceased for 10 years. We informed the donor of that and he terminated our agreement.

We are optimistic that other donors would step forward, if in fact the naming option was available.

I urge your support of SB 285.