Fort Belknap Indian Community

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EXHIBIT 6
DATE 3/19/09
SB 337

Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Tribal Govt.)
Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Elected to administer the affairs of the community and to represent the Assiniboine and the Gros Ventre Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation)

Testimony to the Montana Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee
By Jeff Stiffarm, Director, Fort Belknap Fish and Wildlife Department
Vice-president, Montana/Wyoming Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is Jeff Stiffarm, I'm from the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation where I'm the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Department/Buffalo Project. I am also the Vice-President of the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission that represents tribal wildlife interests on the seven reservations in Montana as well as the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. Our Commission has been involved with the Yellowstone buffalo issue for the past 12 years. Nearly all of our member tribes currently have buffalo herds on their reservations and

I would like to go on record to state that the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission strongly oppose Senate Bill 337.

My reservation has submitted a proposal to host disease free buffalo coming out of the Yellowstone project in 2010 or 2011. We support the efforts of the other two tribes that have also submitted proposals, the Fort Peck Tribes and the Wind River Tribes. Wind River was awarded the buffalo coming out of the program for 2009.

If we do get the buffalo in 2010 or 2011 they will be kept as a separate herd in a secure pasture along the same design as the fence that keeps the buffalo in the National Bison Range at Moise.

This Bill really appears to be more about targeting buffalo and Indian tribes than about any real threat of brucellosis.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Stiffarm