



Working together to strengthen and support noxious  
weed management efforts in Montana

[www.mtweed.org](http://www.mtweed.org)

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 164

March 23, 2009

Dear Senator Barrett,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the MWCA Weed Coordinator Support Committee, representing county weed coordinators across Montana who support SB 164. We feel this bill is the right and responsible way for the state of Montana to acquire land and be fiscally accountable for the management of noxious weeds. I speak on behalf of my fellow coordinators when I say that it is very frustrating to have to partially treat or not treat state owned lands because the agency doesn't have enough funding to do the job. It is quickly becoming a harsh reality that counties are no longer able to cover the expense many of these jobs entail and often times it is larger than the lease holders can afford. I would like to commend your efforts in introducing this legislation that could set precedence for all state and federal agencies.

Sincerely,

Amy Adler  
MWCA Coordinator Support Chair

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Montana Weed Control Association P.O. Box 315 Twin Bridges, MT 59754 (406)684 - 5590



EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 164

# Yellowstone County



**WEED CONTROL**  
(406) 256-2708  
(406) 254-7939 (FAX)

3319 King Avenue East  
Billings, MT 59101

February 7, 2009

Montana House Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee  
Kendall VanDyk, Chairman

Montana House Natural Resources Committee  
Mike Milburn, Chairman

RE: Senate Bill 164

Dear Committee Members,

Yellowstone County Weed District would like to offer our support of the position proposed in SB 164.

It is our opinion that the proposed legislation sponsored by Sen. Debby Barrett; will create a mechanism that will provide the necessary financial resources to promote responsible land stewardship. While we support the creation of expanded public recreational areas; without this funding, there are little or no resources that exist to develop and maintain these sites. Land ownership, whether it is public or private, requires dedication to effectively manage these properties. Many of these newly acquired properties have large scale noxious weed problems, and are non-compliant with the Montana County Weed Act statutes. The disturbance associated with the site development, along with expanded usage, will only create increases in the level of noxious weed impacts. It is our hope that you support Sen. Barrett's proposed legislation on this matter; and hope that you give it due consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William (Bill) Michael, Jr.".

William Michael, Jr., Chairman  
Yellowstone County Weed Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Bockness".

Scott Bockness, Superintendent  
Yellowstone County Weed Control

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 169

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY WEED DISTRICT

2 SOUTH PACIFIC DILLON MONTANA 59725

To Whom It May Concern:

The Beaverhead County Weed Board would like to express its full support to Senate Bill 164.

It's so important that we all work together and we all become good neighbors. This Bill would give the Montana Fish & Wildlife a budget to deal with maintenance issue on newly acquired lands. At this time it seems that they don't have the fund to maintain the lands that they manage. This Bill would be a step in the right direction.

We would also like to thank the Fish and Game Committee for its careful consideration when dealing with this Bill.

Jack Eddie

Beaverhead County Weed Coordinator



Beaverhead County Commissioners

2 South Pacific Street, Ste. #4

Dillon, Montana 59725-4000

Phone: (406)683-3750 Fax: (406)683-3769

[trice@co.beaverhead.mt.us](mailto:trice@co.beaverhead.mt.us)

[ghaugland@co.beaverhead.mt.us](mailto:ghaugland@co.beaverhead.mt.us)

[mmcginley@co.beaverhead.mt.us](mailto:mmcginley@co.beaverhead.mt.us)

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 164

January 20, 2009

Montana Fish and Game Committee:

The Beaverhead County Commissioners fully support Senate Bill 164. This Bill would help to fund the Department of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) so that it can manage the maintenance on newly acquired land.

The FWP seems to have difficulty maintaining the lands it already manages due to the lack of funding. Therefore, the approval of SB 164 would be a move in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

C. Thomas Rice

Chairman

Beaverhead County Commissioners

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EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 164

From: "Aeric Reilly" <aeric@mtsheep.org>  
Subject: **Re: SB. 164**  
Date: January 29, 2009 12:58:57 PM MST  
To: "Debby Barrett" <Grt3177@smtel.com>

January 29th, 2009

Montana Wool Growers Association  
Aeric Reilly, Executive Director  
Po Box 1693  
Helena, MT 59624

Members of the Montana Senate  
Helena, MT 59601

Montana Wool Growers is very supportive of S.B. 164. Legislation that would require Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to establish a maintenance account to ensure the good neighbor policy.

MWGA supports a noxious weed management plan from the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks that complies with the county weed management plan for the area.

Maintenance should be a priority before purchasing additional land or water to ensure quality of recreation and maintaining a good neighbor standard.

Thank you for your support of SB. 164

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 164

From: "Moodry, John" <weeds@bsb.mt.gov>  
Subject: **SB 164**  
Date: February 5, 2009 11:34:48 AM MST  
To: <grt3177@smtel.com>

Senator Barrett: The Butte Silver Bow Weed District is in support of your proposed changes to Section 23-1-126 MCA in SB164. The Good Neighbor Policy fits with everything we are trying to accomplish with our County Weed Management Plan as you know noxious weeds know no boundaries and have a negative effect on all lands they infest. It is understood that the people of Montana have rights to access and recreate on public lands but to acquire property just to hold it and let it degrade is a travesty and extremely costly to the entire state. The impact to adjoining lands from uncontrolled noxious weeds is the number one problem facing all land managers. You have our full support in the changes proposed in SB164. Please let me know how I may help. Thank you for your continued support to the weed issue.

John M Moodry  
Butte Silver Bow  
Weed Supervisor  
406/497/6462

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 164

January 21, 2009

Dear Senator Barrett,

I am writing this letter of support for your proposed legislation, SB 164 to require FWP to practice good neighbor policies by requiring 40% additional funding to maintain the acquisition of land. I can only say it is about time. The only change I would make to this bill would be to require FWP to put in a line item in their maintenance budget specifically for noxious weeds. This agency has been guilty in the past of claiming that thousands of dollars were put into noxious weed control, when in reality, they were classifying the maintenance of the Capitol lawn and all of the regional office lawns as noxious weed control. You see, if you leave this funding under maintenance, even if your bill is specifically discussing noxious weed control, FWP will automatically use the money to fix signs, repair out houses, and put up wildlife friendly fences long before they control noxious weeds. I personally do not see FWP giving a damn about noxious weeds when they are allocating a budget of \$5,000 for Region Three fishing access sites this year for noxious weed control! That is so far out of whack with the real funding needed, that is absolutely laughable. Region Three has the most fishing access sites of any region in the state and many of these sites have serious noxious weed problems. It is time for this state agency to be held to the same standards the landowners of the state of Montana are. If you buy the property, you should be required to keep it free of noxious weeds. I feel we have enough public land mass in the state of Montana and yes, I am a recreationalist and sportswoman! I hope the Montana legislature will take a stand with this bill and show Montanans that all of us have a responsibility to be good stewards of the land.

Sincerely,

Becky Kington  
Madison County Resident

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 164

To whom it may concern:

January 12, 2009

This is a letter in support of Senate Bill No. 164 to expand the "Good Neighbor Policy." I am an adjacent land owner to the Lincoln Ranch in Toole & Pondera counties that was just acquired last year by FWP. Before this was purchased, several land owners asked where the funding would come from to manage the weeds on this property. Much of this property (40-50%) is covered in leafy spurge, Russian knapweed and perennial pepper weed. We never got an answer. Most of the boundary fence to this property is in disrepair or nonexistent. We asked where the funding would come from to fence it and never got an answer. I believe the Good Neighbor Policy needs to be amended to mandate that FWP have funding prior to purchase to manage any land they acquire.

The contractors and land surveyor have not been local for jobs done so far on this property. I believe that local workers should be used.

Sincerely:



Troy Wanken  
PO Box 571  
Shelby, MT 59474

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 164

Attn: Senate Wildlife and Parks Committee

Re: Senate Bill 164

I, Joan Layne, of the Willow Rounds Ranch, located east of Valier, Montana, (and neighbor of the Charlie Lincoln ranch that was recently purchased by the FWP) am in support of Senate Bill 164, which states that Fish, Wildlife & Parks will maintain fences and practice noxious weed control on their existing and newly acquired land in order to respect adjoining landowners and or neighbors.

Thank You,  
Joan Layne  
4689 Willow Rounds Rd  
Valier, MT 59486

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 164

From: Dee Turner <thunderorganics@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **SB 164**  
Date: March 26, 2009 1:19:15 PM MDT  
To: grt3177@smtel.com

Senator Barrett,

We are farmers north of Shelby and we are for this bill, SB 164.

Our son has 1000 head of goats he uses for weed projects and has a difficult time finding paying projects.

He has talked to the FWP about doing weed projects but they are always doing a study or buying more land and can't seem to take care of what they have.

The FWP just acquired the Charley Lincoln place on the Marias River and say they are doing a study!! The place has been loaded with noxious weeds for a very long time!

I just thought I'd tell you there are people already in place that take care of weed projects without chemicals for sensitive areas along rivers and streams.

Thank You for listening to me,

Dave Turner

62 Sourdough Ln

Oilmont, MT 59466

Ph. 406-937-3765