

SENATE AGRICULTURE

EXHIBIT NO. 22

DATE 2-17-2009

BILL NO. SB 337



Smith Farms Inc.

288 Sandhills Road
Dagmar, Montana 59219

A Montana Ranching Family
Since 1903

Ed (406-483-5484) Gary (406-483-5494) Rod (406-483-5480)

February 13, 2009

*Corrected
Copy
Ed*

Senator John Brenden:

Smith Farms, Inc. has a livestock operation with 14 miles of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in northeast Montana and we are adamantly opposed to the relocation of bison taken from a quarantine facility as was proposed by FWP.

This is during the same time when the Montana Department of Livestock is attempting to provide a reasonable solution to the brucellosis problem in a seven county area in south western Montana.

For over 50 years our calves have been sold to feedlot owners in Iowa, Nebraska, and other states. Why would any state agency take the risk associated with this proposal that could cause livestock producers in Montana to lose a place to market their livestock?

Sincerely,

Ed Smith

Senator Brenden

From: John Fahlgren [fahlgren.john@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 7:18 PM
To: senatorbrenden@gmail.com
Subject: Thanks for your efforts on ag issues esp the buffalo bill, don't weaken on that!

Dear Sen Brenden, I am John Fahlgren, I raise some angus cattle near Glasgow, am retired from BLM , do some range consulting work and ranch work, I know if the Fish and Game were left to their devices they would have buffalo in the Missouri Breaks with their buddies in the Prairie Foundation and Nature Conservancy, we will have to fight to keep ranching going and your efforts are really appreciated, you had my vote and I am happy to say that is one vote I cast that did some good!

John Fahlgren

Senator Brenden

From: MAXINE KORMAN [kormanmax@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2009 1:18 PM
To: senatorbrenden@gmail.com
Cc: dave pippin; kormanmax@hotmail.com
Subject: SB 337 allow fwp translocate yellowstone bison anywhere
Attachments: Split-state status.doc

Dear Senator Brenden, thank you for taking the time to put your Legislative Report in the local newspapers. This Tuesday, February 17th, there is a hearing on SB 337. This is a bill to allow Fish, Wildlife and Parks to translocate bison from Yellowstone Park to anywhere in Montana. My husband and I own land patented by the federal government under the intent of Congress to support ourselves and our family in agriculture and specifically stock-raising. We own vested rights and these rights are protected under the federal Constitution. The translocation of Yellowstone bison with the associated disease has the potential to destroy our rights to continue with a viable livestock business. On October 31, 2008 I e-mailed the following to Montana Department of Livestock: "Our family has a ranch located southwest of Hinsdale, Montana and our operation has been negatively affected by the inability to eradicate brucellosis in the Yellowstone National Park region. The negative impact is evident in the reduced price that cows are selling for. In our opinion, this plan is still a plan for split-state status and we have felt that was an inadequate approach from the beginning and does not address the disparity in preventative measures for livestock and the lack of for wildlife. There is also a double standard in the way a cowherd is de-populated upon discovery of a positive and there is no such extreme measure advocated for elk and/or bison when that species is found to be a reservoir for the disease. An obvious simple step to ensure segregation is a boundary fence around the legally defined boundary of the park to prohibit migration of the reservoir animals out and to prevent predators such as wolves from dragging aborted contaminated tissues and fluids that would spread the disease to ranchers livestock." This is a part of the comments. If these bison are re-located, these same problems will merely be multiplied throughout the state with more occurrences and very likely we will never regain brucellosis free status. We as ranchers will essentially have a market destroyed and still have additional expense of required testing of cattle. This is caused by agencies that are supposed to manage wildlife however they do not pay for these additional costs and losses. I have attached an opinion piece that I wrote and appeared in The Prairie Star and Agri-News. If you would like a copy of "The TRansboundary Partnership" paper that I reference, please contact me and I will be pleased to provide you with a copy. I urge you to do all you can to prevent passage of this measure. Thank you very much. Maxine Korman, Hinsdale, Montana ,406-648-5536

Senator Brenden

From: KCGM Radio [kcgm@nemont.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:09 AM
To: senatorbrenden@gmail.com
Subject: SB 337

Hello John,

Thanks for the heads up on SB 337. I think that this is NOT a good thing for NE Montana either, and I will work on my own time to call some area ranchers to help oppose this.

Looking beyond the immediate impact of introducing the "experimental" Bison here... I think that this may also be the beginnings of a larger scheme to make a "Bison Range" out of Eastern Montana. I know that this sounds a little on the conspiracy theory side of things... but I believe it to be true.

We already have a significant stretch of "wildlife fence" along the Interstate to Billings... built in the name of "highway safety"... however I think that this too is part of the greater plan to make a modern day "Wildlife Safari" area out of Eastern Montana. This Bison idea, in my mind is disguised, and is in reality a part of this greater scheme.

Thanks again... and let me know if there is anything else I can do to help.

John M. Mechart

Scobey, MT

Phone Message

Message # 7379

Operator CL0054

Message taken: 2/17/2009 11:48:09 AM

Caller **George Alden**
Title/Company
box 119
Larsland, MT 59244

Home Ph. - - 406 Work Ph. - - 406 Cell Ph. .

Senate
SEN. JOHN BRENDEN
Seat No. 43

CallBack

Vote FOR SB 337: Revise laws governing bison--re: translocation of quarantined bison.

Vote FOR SJ 7: Opposition to HR 2421.

Phone Message

Message # 7383

Operator CL0070

Message taken: 2/17/2009 11:50:25 AM

Caller **Jane Eblen**
Title/Company
15959 Rocky Mountain Rd
Belgrade, MT 59714

Home Ph. - - 406 Work Ph. - - 406 Cell Ph. .

Sent to all Members: Fish and Game

Senate
SEN. JOHN BRENDEN
Seat No. 43

CallBack

Vote FOR SB 337: Revise laws governing bison--re: translocation of quarantined bison.