

EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 2/10/11  
HB 390



# CITY OF BILLINGS

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



P.O. Box 1554 • Billings, MT 59103  
220 N. 27th St. • Billings, MT 59101  
(406) 657-8460 • Fax (406) 657-8417 • E-mail bpd@ci.billings.mt.us

February 10, 2011

Montana House Agriculture Committee:

Chairman Kerns and Committee Members:

Thank you for hearing two bills regarding animal statute improvements. The Billings Police Department and our Animal Control section have reviewed both HB 390, to establish licensing and inspection, and HB 407 to establish dog owner responsibility for aggressive dog behaviors.

I believe that both bills offer improvements to existing statutes and the City authorized Animal Control Supervisor Dave Klein and me to attend your hearings. However, we are unable to do that, so I am writing in support of these improvements and anticipate the changes will help law enforcement and animal control officers in handling animal welfare calls and complaints.

HB 390 addresses the growing problem of direct sales of dogs to the public from facilities that have no oversight, inspections or minimum standards. HB 390, via MDOL rule making, will provide consumer protection and safety standards that are currently lacking. HB 407 is a model statute that puts the responsibility for negative dog behaviors, regardless of breed or background, on the owner/caretaker. This is where the responsibility lies and the City supports this measure. The City of Billings urges your committee to approve these bills.

Sincerely,

Rich St. John  
Chief of Police

*Billings Pride:  
City-wide*