

March 21, 2011

House Ag Committee:

Krayton Kerns, Chairman, and Committee members:

**SB 237** requires state agencies to address the disease source [Elk and Bison] and not just the symptom which are cattle. There are procedures in place for cattle, Montana needs to have procedures in place to address the source of the disease.

**SB 237** prevents Brucellosis from spreading. In February, 2011 FWP found Brucellosis exposed Elk in the Ruby Valley, these are outside the DSA. **SB 237** would require FWP to reduce seroprevalance in there Elk.

**SB 237** full fills Federal requirements. New Rules from USDA APHIS requires that states with diseased Wildlife develop a disease plan for Wildlife species and a disease plan for livestock. **SB237** makes sure we are in compliance so we can keep our Class Free Status.

**SB 237** ensures that state agencies are communicating with livestock producers. This allows information to flow both ways. Producers can talk to agencies about risk changes they see on the ground and agencies can discuss their progress in managing the disease.

The Brucellosis problem is not just confined to the Greater Yellowstone Area. This was proved in the Ruby Valley FWP study. With the predator problem, the Elk have been moving North, East, and West out of the Park. This is going to be a problem for the whole **State**.

For these reasons we ask for a yes vote for **SB 237**.

Thank you,

*Jay Bailey*  
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Jay and Shelley Bailey

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