

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2/1/11
HB 282

House Bill 282
February 1, 2011
Presented by Jim Kropp
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in support of House Bill 282.

You've heard how this law originally came into being. We have registered 89 grizzly bears in Montana since 1972. Additionally, we have formally refused registration of about 20 bears for lack of documentation.

We believe this bill could benefit those who currently hold lawfully taken bears and who have documentation as to their legal harvest.

Federal endangered species laws still affect trade in grizzly bears, even with registered bears. The interstate sale of grizzly bear heads, hides, mounts or other parts taken from grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 state remains illegal and prohibited by federal law. We believe that an amendment to this bill would be an important benefit for clarity and, perhaps more than anything, help keep honest sportspeople out of trouble. Thank you.