

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2/8/11
HR 337

House Bill 337
February 8, 2011
Presented by Jim Kropp
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in support of House Bill 337.

HB337 is a companion bill that works with SB124 in a major reorganization of the penalty codes for Title 87. HB337 is simply a detail or cleanup bill that refers to legal definitions which are necessary for the instruction of law to a jury. Fish, wildlife and parks crimes are processed through the courts the same as any other crime. Therefore, it is important that criminal justice definitions are consistent between the various titles. HB337 does this by referring to definitions in Title 45 because the prosecution of Title 87 crimes involves the same procedures and rules of evidence as Title 45. The added definitions of "possession" and "conviction" were noted by the Title 87 Working Group—the justices of the peace, FWP enforcement personnel, county attorneys, Attorney General's staff, legislators and the Legislative Council, who crafted the reorganization—as meaningful omissions that could easily be remedied by this bill. We support its passage.