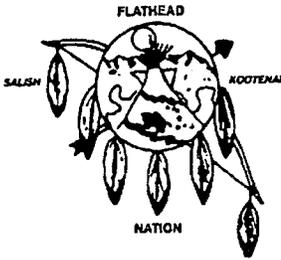


EXHIBIT 6
DATE 2/17/2011
HB 482



A People of Vision



THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

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A Confederation of the Salish,
Upper Pend d'Oreilles
and Kootenai Tribes

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

E.T. "Bud" Moran – Chairman
Joe Durglo – Vice Chair
Steve Lozar – Secretary
Jim Malatare – Treasurer
Michel Kenmille
Carole Lankford
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Charles L. Morigeau
Terry L. Pitts
James Steele Jr.

House of Representatives
Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee
Hon. Ted Washburn, Chairman
62nd Montana State Legislature
Capital Building
Helena, Montana

February 17, 2011

RE: House Bill No. 482 "The Montana Wild Buffalo Conservation and Management Act of 2011."

Chairman Kerns and Committee Members,

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT or Tribes) support the passage of HB 482, a bill that would clarify the status of Montana's role regarding the nation's last wild bison herd, allowing the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) to help conserve and manage this precious public resource as wildlife.

It is an understatement to say that the bison, or buffalo, has played a profound role in our culture and history, as it has for all Montana tribes. The buffalo remains a key component of our culture today, and preserves a connection to tribal traditions that date back uncounted generations.

Our interest in this bill stems from the CSKT's unique status. When we signed the Treaty of Hellgate in 1855, the Tribes reserved the right to hunt and fish in the usual and accustomed places - a right that includes hunting buffalo in the Greater Yellowstone Area. Our tribal members have a long history of hunting the buffalo, and we continue to rely on their meat and other by-products to sustain us physically and culturally. We hope to see this relationship

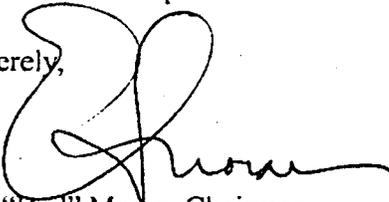
continue and be passed on to future generations of CSKT members. Passage of HB 482 would go a long way towards preserving the last remaining wild buffalo herd in the United States and assuring our grandchildren that buffalo will remain a part of our lives and the Montana landscape.

We endorse the purpose of HB 482, which allows the Yellowstone bison to be classified as wildlife, and managed as such by FWP. The Tribes have faith in FWP's ability to be good stewards of the buffalo, and we have had a good working relationship with the agency for many years. We currently participate with FWP as a governmental partner under the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP), and look forward to bison re-assuming their proper place as Montana wildlife. The Tribes realize there are complicated issues surrounding this goal, but we are prepared and willing to assist FWP as co-managers of this important public resource.

We are aware that the IBMP also has a goal of maintaining Montana's brucellosis-free status. It is important to note that there has never been a documented bison-to-cattle transmission of brucellosis to date, and as long as the elk population of the Greater Yellowstone Area carries the disease, the local agricultural community may always bear some risk. However, it is heartening to know that the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is currently revising its rules so that the risk of Montana losing its brucellosis-free status will be greatly reduced. We believe there is tremendous potential for bison and cattle to coexist in Montana. A positive first step would be for this Committee to pass the Montana Wild Buffalo Conservation and Management Act of 2011.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes fully support the goals and purposes of HB 482, and strongly encourage this Committee to pass this bill to the House floor for a vote from the full House membership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E.T. Moran", written over a horizontal line.

E.T. "Bud" Moran, Chairman
Tribal Council, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes