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My name is Amy Mills I represent Mills Wilderness Adventures of MT. Thank you for hearing me today. My husband Tucker is a second generation outfitter, we live and operate out of Augusta. The latest census figure available for our community is around 300 people. Our small family business employed 20 people in 2010. That is around 7% of our community population. Also I would like to point out that our business is only one of seven outfitting businesses residing in and operating out of Augusta. Three of us each employed 18-20 people in 2010. This would work out to around 21% of our population. Please consider the impact of these figures to our tiny little town. If 20 % of Missoula's population could be out of a job our state would be frantic. Augusta is only one out of many small towns across the state where tourism is the heartbeat. All of our revenue is dispersed throughout Montana.

Public land outfitters operate under Priority Use Permits managed by the Forest Service. These permits restrict the number of days and therefore clients that can be brought onto the forest to recreate. Outfitters report on a yearly basis how many clients are served for hunting along with fees being paid based on those numbers. Because of these limits, it is impossible to overbook any hunts. The Priority Use Service Days are specific to the area defined by the Forest Service and cannot exceed what is permitted to the outfitter. I mention these Forest Service limits so it is understood that SB400 won't result in bringing new hunters into our wilderness, it just ensures the ones that want to come now have a reasonable chance to obtain a license.

We also have had a new policy implemented by the USFS that takes Priority Use Days away from us if we do not use them. With the current licensing system under I-161 we could face our businesses shrinking EVERY five years PERMANENTLY, due to this "use your days or lose your days" policy. Between the economy and the blow of I-161 many of us have had sleepless nights with these looming worries.

We are not asking for money or a hand out, just the ability to maintain a business our family has worked so hard for, so we are able to support the community and state we love so much. Please support Senate Bill 400.