

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 4/7/2011
SB 400

Individual
Business
Organizations
Chamber of Commerce

Letters of Support for SB 400

Dear Legislators,

Please support SB 400.

I feel wilderness outfitters were caught in the middle on I-161 as they do not lease ranches for hunting, I believe the people in charge of I-161 were only worried about ranch leases and sadly have brought about economic havoc for wilderness outfitters in the process.

Wilderness areas belong to all US citizens and they should have the right to hunt there. Most of these hunters are going to contract the help of an outfitter as they are aware of the advantage of hunting with someone who knows the area and how to survive in wilderness conditions. Wilderness outfitters bring in large amounts of money to local businesses, provide jobs, pay taxes, and put money into the Federal government by paying use and site fees to the USDA Forest Service.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Shawn & Capri Little
15600 Hwy 2 East
Essex, MT 59916
406-226-9225
snowysprings@wildblue.net

Dear Representative,

(In consideration of SB400) I have been a fulltime taxidermist in Lincoln, MT since 1988. My business name is JR's Taxidermy Studio. Lincoln is located just south of the Scapegoat Wilderness.

Throughout the years I have had many non-resident hunters come into my shop that have harvested an animal to be mounted and there have been hunters who have not harvested an animal. Both groups were equally satisfied by having the wilderness experience. By giving an additional number of wilderness only tags would allow more people to enjoy that experience. Possibly increasing the number of clients for the outfitters, taxidermists, butchers, motels, and so on and so on.

Jay Roberson
JR's Taxidermy Studio

April 7, 2011

Dear members of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee,

I would like to ask you to support SB 400. We are wilderness outfitters who provide necessary service for both residents and non residents, by having an established tent camp July-October. We provide guidance, help, or hospitality to both residents and non residents. As federal funding has been cut for USFS trail crews, we personally cut the access trails in our drainage for everyone to have access.

Between wolf reintroduction and I 161, we are having a hard time surviving. It's not only outfitters and our guides who are affected - our small town of Gardiner could use the economy boost. If there are enough licenses that clients can be reasonably assured of drawing a tag, they will book and spend their money in Montana. They stay in motels, eat in restaurants, shop in gift shops, buy fuel, and have their meat processed locally. They wilderness is federal land open to ALL hunters. We have been well regulated in our backcountry camps for decades on the numbers of hunters we can take, based on historical use. By the process of attrition, there are now only six wilderness outfitters in the entire 980,000 acre Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness north of Yellowstone. Please help us to be able to continue to work hard, make good decisions, and keep our family businesses.

Sincerely,

Scott Sallee
Slough Creek Outfitters
P.O. Box 117
Emigrant, MT 59027
(406)222-7455
www.sloughcreekoutfitters.com

Dear Representative,

I am writing you to ask for your support of SB 400. This bill will help encourage more out of hunters to apply because of the extra number of tags and increasing the chances of being successful in the drawing for their elk licenses. In our meat processing business, out of state hunters attribute to over \$40,000.00 worth of business every fall during hunting season. We process wild game for 8 different outfitters and their out of state clients. This extra income for our business provides jobs for the residents in the Big Timber area. Last year we received close to \$8000.00 in the form of "Rush Fees" from out of state hunters that we in turn donated to various non-profit groups in our represented in our area. They are as follows: 4-H Clubs, Livestock Busters 4-H Livestock Judging Club, Mania Youth Empowerment Leadership Program, CASA, Montana Masonic Scholarship Fund, 4-H Afterschool Kids Club, Sweet Grass Stockgrowers scholarship fund, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Without your support of this bill this income to our business will be considerably lower hurting our community of Big Timber. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Brian Engle
Pioneer Meats
Big Timber, MT

Dear Members of House Fish and Game Committee

If I could just take a brief moment of your valuable time.

I'm not one to take to political issues but I feel I should say something. Since the passage of eliminating designated amount of non-resident tags to outfitters I've had 20% of my regular clients cancel their reservations. The Scapegoat and Bob Marshall Wilderness Areas are nearby and during the Fall hunting season I get at least 50% of my business from outfitters who used those tags to not only provide income for my motel but for the restaurants, bars, markets, in our small town and FWP for additional licenses.

I would like your support for SB 400, the sale of 2,000 B-10/B-7 wilderness combination licenses. This would greatly affect our community in a positive manner.

Thank you again for your time,
Juergen Hemicker
406-362-4333

Dear Legislators

The Bigfork Area Chamber of Commerce is urging you to vote yes on SB400 and move it to the floor for general vote. As a Flathead Valley Chamber of Commerce, we are 330 members strong composed of lodging properties, restaurants, gas stations, convenience stores, bars, gift shops and activity providers. Our livelihoods, jobs and economic well being rely on fall patronage of nonresident hunters. This bill brings stability back to rural areas that depend on tourism for our livings. Please restore our economy and vote yes on SB400

Bruce Solberg
Executive Director
Bigfork Area Chamber of Commerce
406-837-5888
chamber@bigfork.org
www.bigfork.org

Columbia Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 312
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

The outfitters and guides in our business community need our help!

To Our Fellow Business Partners:

Your outfitter friends really need a hand getting an important bill through the legislature. SB400 which creates new wilderness licenses is designed to ensure that those nonresidents who want to come to Montana to hunt in congressionally designated wilderness can do so without fear of not getting a license. The passage of this bill affects all gateway communities as these clients come in the fall and patronize all your businesses on the way in or out. The proponents of I-161 are pressuring legislators not to pass this legislation as they don't want any more nonresidents to come into the state. Members of the House Fish & Game Committee meet on Thursday to determine the fate of this bill. Your e-mails and calls to the members of the committee will send a loud message that jobs and the economy are important to our gateway community. We appreciate your support!

ALLEN'S MANIX STORE

MAIN STREET

AUGUSTA, MT 59410

406-562-3333

April 4, 2011

Dear Lawmakers:

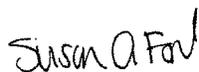
My name is Susan A. Ford. I own Allen's Manix Store in Augusta, Montana. Our town is approximately 350 residents and we are the only grocery store in our community. Our livelihood is retained through our residents which include 7 outfitters that are all members of our community. These 7 outfitting businesses bring much needed revenue into our little town of Augusta. They employ many people and bring a lot of business to our town with the many customers that they serve. Our town would struggle deeply without them and the many dollars that they bring to us and our state.

I employ up to 8 workers at the height of our season which extends from June 1st through the end of hunting season. Without our outfitters and the much needed and appreciated revenue they bring to our business and town, I would not be able to employ the number of people I do. Several of the workers in the summer and fall are high school students looking for a much needed job in a community that does not have a lot of jobs available.

We are not asking for money. We are asking for the ability to maintain our livelihood which we have been working at for many years, as have all of these outfitters. Many of them are 2nd and 3rd generation families that have worked very hard to establish a viable business and have supported our community and our business and the State of Montana.

Please listen well and thoughtfully.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Ford

April 4, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I, Ben Arps, being the only Gas Station and tire repair shop in Augusta am writing this letter for the Augusta Area Outfitters. Their doing business in Augusta is a substantial boost to the local economy.

Any consideration you could give them means a lot to the Augusta Community

Yours Truly
Ben Arps
Augusta Service
406-562-3477
Ben Arps

April 4, 2011

To whom it may concern;

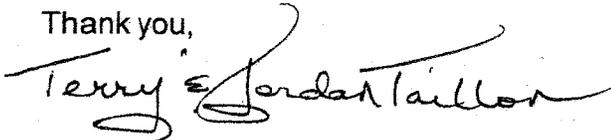
As a small rural business in Montana, we would like to be clear on the impact Outfitters have towards insuring our sustainability.

The Bunkhouse Inn is a small hotel operation in Augusta. Since tourism is our 'bread and butter', any policies or market impacts strongly influence our bottom line. The area outfitters have directly been responsible for **50%** of our revenue since 1994. Our viability is very dependent on the business generated by the outfitters. It also has a ripple effect within the community. Our guests eat, shop, and utilize goods and services locally.

As noted economist R. Glenn Hubbard, et al. stated "the greatest intangibles of America's economic greatness, over its long economic history, have been the creativity and innovative spirit of its entrepreneurs."

It will be the "mom & pop" businesses that keep this country viable. Please don't do anything to harm or destroy that spirit.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry & Jordan Taillon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry & Jordan Taillon
The Bunkhouse Inn
Box 294
Augusta, MT 59410

April 4, 2011

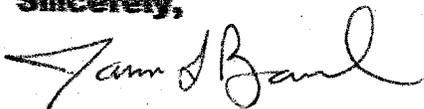
To whom it may concern;

I am writing this letter on behalf of Montana wilderness outfitters of the Augusta area. Being from a small town on the Rocky Mountain front I know what kind of impact outfitters have on our small community. They generate a large amount of revenue for every business in Augusta. The grocery store, gas station, motels and the bars & cafes rely heavily on the outfitters for their income. I have worked at two bar/cafes in Augusta and have seen this first hand. If the outfitters are having a slow year, the entire community feels the impact.

I am in the process of purchasing a bar/cafe in Augusta. When I started this process, one of the first things I did was talk to the local outfitters. Knowing I had their support, I was more secure in building my own business.

Providing outfitters with wilderness only licenses will help the economy of Augusta and all of Montana.

Sincerely,



Jami L. Bouchard

Lazy B Bar and Cafe

Lazy B LLC

MOGA

From: Mills Wilderness Adventures of Montana [info@millswa.com]

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:31 PM

To: 'MOGA'

Subject: FW: SB400 and how wilderness outfitting is regulated

From: Mills Wilderness Adventures of Montana <info@millswa.com>

To: jesse59404@yahoo.com

Sent: Mon, April 4, 2011 5:59:16 AM

Subject: SB400 and how wilderness outfitting is regulated

Please let explain something about wilderness outfitting.

We operate on Forest Service Priority Use Permits as public land outfitters. Each year we report the number of clients served for all activities – horseback riding, fishing and hunting. Our annual fees are –based on these numbers. We're limited to 15 in a camp, including crew members. We can't overbook our hunts in hope of beating drawing odds because success in the drawing would mean we're in violation of FS rules.

We're also limited on the number of horses and mules in our camp at one time, and pay grazing fees accordingly. These limits are not unreasonable, they are necessary to preserve the habitat and beauty we all enjoy.

A new policy implemented by the USFS takes Priority Use Days away from us if we do not use them. You can see how the drawing system under I-161 threatens our business with permanent loss of use days and how scary that is!. Between the economy and I-161, many of us have had sleepless nights with these looming worries.

Please consider this information as you work on SB 400.

Warm Regards,

Amy Mills

MOGA

From: Pat Tabor [pat.tabor@swanmountainoutfitters.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:59 AM

To: montesoutfitting@outdrs.net

Cc: MOGA; Jean Smotis

Subject: Fwd: RE: message sent by gateway group

Subject:FW: Please submit this message

Date:Tue, 5 Apr 2011 07:38:59 -0600

From:SummitQuest (DBA: Historic Tamarack Lodge & Cabins)

[<summitquest@live.com>](mailto:summitquest@live.com)

Reply-To:[<summitquest@live.com>](mailto:summitquest@live.com)

Organization:DBA: Historic Tamarack Lodge

To:[<ted@tedwashburn.com>](mailto:ted@tedwashburn.com), [<mikephillips@montana.net>](mailto:mikephillips@montana.net), [<cboland@mt.gov>](mailto:cboland@mt.gov),
[<connell4hd87@yahoo.com>](mailto:connell4hd87@yahoo.com), [<vjchd52@yahoo.com>](mailto:vjchd52@yahoo.com),
[<rdriscoll@peoplepc.com>](mailto:rdriscoll@peoplepc.com), [<hideaway@mt.net>](mailto:hideaway@mt.net), [<bharris@midrivers.com>](mailto:bharris@midrivers.com),
[<dougkary.hd48@gmail.com>](mailto:dougkary.hd48@gmail.com), [<dan@votedankennedy.com>](mailto:dan@votedankennedy.com),
[<austinfohouse@yahoo.com>](mailto:austinfohouse@yahoo.com), [<cloney@q.com>](mailto:cloney@q.com), [<mike4hd84@blackfoot.net>](mailto:mike4hd84@blackfoot.net),
[<jesse59404@yahoo.com>](mailto:jesse59404@yahoo.com), [<kenneth59@bresnan.net>](mailto:kenneth59@bresnan.net), [<jl_price@bresnan.net>](mailto:jl_price@bresnan.net),
[<skattumd@wispwest.net>](mailto:skattumd@wispwest.net), [<franke.wilmer@gmail.com>](mailto:franke.wilmer@gmail.com),
[<max.yates.hd74@gmail.com>](mailto:max.yates.hd74@gmail.com)

CC:'Gateway Group' [<gateway2glacier@gmail.com>](mailto:gateway2glacier@gmail.com)

Dear Members of the House Fish & Game Committee:

Our group is urging you to vote yes on SB400 and move it to the floor for general vote. As a gateway community we are 100 members strong composed of lodging properties, restaurants, gas stations, convenience stores, bars, gift shops and activity providers. Our livelihoods, jobs and economic well being rely on fall patronage of nonresident hunters. This bill brings stability back to rural areas that depend on tourism for our livings. Please restore our economy and vote yes on SB400.

Sincerely,

Doug Woehler

President / Gateway to Glacier

www.gateway2glacier.com

PO Box 190236

Hungry Horse, MT 59919

406-387-4420

gateway2glacier@gmail.com

MOGA

From: Pat Tabor [pat.tabor@swanmountainoutfitters.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:32 AM

To: MOGA; Jean Smotls

Subject: message sent by gateway group

Dear Members of the House Fish & Game Committee:

Our group is urging you to vote yes on SB400 and move it to the floor for general vote. As a gateway community we are 100 members strong composed of lodging properties, restaurants, gas stations, convenience stores, bars, gift shops and activity providers. Our livelihoods, jobs and economic well being rely on fall patronage of nonresident hunters. This bill brings stability back to rural areas that depend on tourism for our livings. Please restore our economy and vote yes on SB400.

Sincerely,

Doug Woehler

President / Gateway to Glacier

www.gateway2glacier.com

PO Box 190236

Hungry Horse, MT 59919

406-387-4420

gateway2glacier@gmail.com

April 7, 2011

Terry Fairchild
All Service Tire and Alignment, Inc
618 East Park
Livingston, Montana 59047
406 222 0994

Dear Montana Legislators,

I am writing in regards to SB 400 and asking for your support.

Please support SB 400. SB 400 is good for Montana tourism and will create and preserve jobs in communities adjacent to Wilderness areas and will afford greater public access to National interest lands.

I urge a Do Pass on SB 400

Thank you



Terry Fairchild



SLOUGH CREEK OUTFITTERS

April 7, 2011

Dear members of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee,

I would like to ask you to support SB 400. We are wilderness outfitters who provide necessary service for both residents and non residents, by having an established tent camp July-October. We provide guidance, help, or hospitality to both residents and non residents. As federal funding has been cut for USFS trail crews, we personally cut the access trails in our drainage for everyone to have access.

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Sincerely,

Scott Sallee

April 7, 2011

Neal Smith
General Manager
Kenyon Noble Hardware & Lumber
122 North F Street
Livingston, Montana 59047
406 222 0761

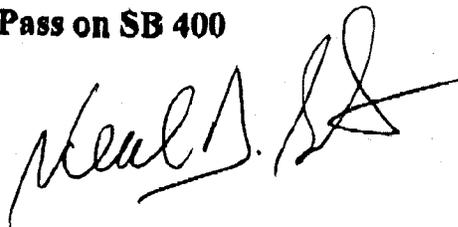
Dear Montana Senators,

I am writing in regards to SB 400 and asking for your support.

Please support SB 400. SB 400 is good for Montana tourism and will create and preserve jobs in communities adjacent to Wilderness areas and will afford greater public access to National interest lands.

I urge a **Do Pass** on SB 400

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal S. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.