

EXHIBIT #15  
DATE Feb 2nd  
HR 313

House Bill 313  
February 2, 2011  
Presented by Jim Kropp  
House State Administration Committee

*Madame*

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 opposition of House Bill 313.

No legislation this session places FWP in a more difficult position than this bill. We agree with many of the rationales that prompt this legislation. This fact aside, however, we cannot rise in support of this legislation because we have been bargaining in good faith with the union representing the wardens in Montana, and we stand by those negotiations. Montana law is very clear in dictating that only one entity can represent employees in bargaining for wages and benefits.

As an agency, we are in support of the Governor's budget recommendations and are hopeful that the legislature will accept the negotiated settlement. We are more than ready to continue the dialogue on how we strengthen recruitment and retention and how we move not only our wardens but all employees into a competitive wage structure. We cannot, however, in this environment support the passage of HB313.

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