

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Lesley **ROBINSON** and I am here representing Phillips County and to speak in support of HB 318.

- **Phillips County needs this bill because we are concerned that bison relocation could burden county resources by:**
 - Damage to public property
 - Damage to private property and
 - Public safety
 - The county is also concerned that bison transplantation is driving bigger land use issues while excluding local interests and government.
- **This bill is beneficial to counties for the following reasons:**
 1. It incorporates the county, a party long-since absent from bison transplant/relocation discussions.
 2. Counties are allowed to accept or deny bison based on available county infrastructure.
 3. It prevents drastic land use changes. Bison introduction on public lands creates multiple use conflicts, road easement issues, etc...all things that counties are forced to address whether they are involved in the process or not.
 - By allowing counties to authorize movement, decisions can be made that incorporate and consider all land use factors.
 4. It more effectively represents local interests in the transplant/relocation process.
Local control over local actions.
 5. It facilitates communication between counties and tribal entities when bison are being relocated to tribal areas.

We as local commissioners are elected to serve the people of the county by making decisions that are in the best interest of the county and help protect the economy of the county.

Thank you for your time. Please vote in support of HB 318.