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SENATE AGRICULTURE

EXHIBIT NO. 8

Bulls

DATE 3-17-11

PREGNANT

BELL NO. FEMALES HB 318

Females with CALVES

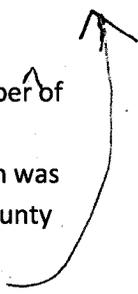
NEGATIVE to d BISON

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee

I am Marty Malone, Park County Commissioner

The Park County Commission supports HB 318.

Since this bill was introduced, the State of Montana has decided to allow a nearly unlimited number of Bison out of the Yellowstone Park into the State of Montana and the south end of Park County. Repeated phone calls to the Governor's Office, FWP and Department of Livestock, not one person was willing tell me how many the Governor and the Park Superintendent decided to allow into the County and basically expand the boundary of Yellowstone. All without even a simple phone call to the Commission to get our opinion and advice. *A senior-PARK SERVICE employee*



The Montana Environmental Policy Act is supposed to protect the citizens from actions that may have a major impact on the environment. **"major actions of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment"**, Wouldn't you think an infusion of 200 to 300 bison on a populated area would invoke at least an EA.

MDOT just finished <sup>installing</sup> paying for a new buffalo guard on Highway 89. A guard that consists of pipes with eight inch spacing, 17 feet long and 36 feet wide at a cost to the taxpayer of nearly \$100,000. This follows an expenditure of 3.25 million to lease a small acreage and corridor, and 250,000 thousand for a new fence. Basically what was decided to let the bison out of the Park and pay nothing to the landowners for the grazing rights and throw away three and one-half million dollars when the legislature is looking for every dime.

There are nearly 700 bison just inside the Park Boundary. The typical infection rate for brucellosis in these animals is 46%. While FWP get headlines with a 10% infection rate in elk, I hear no concern from either FWP or Department of Livestock. In fact I hear no concerns on the potential impact on the livestock industry by the State Veterinarian.

This action is exactly why Senate Bill 318 is so important to protect the citizens of each and every county in this state.