

Citizens for Balanced Use

Box 606, Gallatin Gateway, Mt 59730

www.balanceduse.org

1-406-600-4228

Senate Fish and Game Committee

January 21, 2011

Dear members of the Senate Fish and Game Committee,

Citizens for Balanced Use (CBU) would like you to consider the following facts in your discussion of SB 144. It is no secret that Governor Brian Schweitzer has proposed expanding bison out of Yellowstone Park as indicated by the enclosed DVD of the March 17, 2006 meeting of the Environmental Quality Council. The Governor proposed, at this meeting, to take private property from ranchers by force if necessary to expand the bison range. See DVD time slot beginning at 45:40 minutes where Senator Story asked the Governor this question.

The targeted ranches were identified by the Governor during this meeting and he made it perfectly clear they would have no choice but to give up their ranches to bison.

I testified at your committee hearing on January 20, 2011 and was surprised to hear Joe Maurier, the head of the Fish Wildlife and Parks, oppose SB 144. I believe the Director's testimony is again another attack on ranchers and private property owners by FWP and the Governor. The Governor has made no secret about his willingness to expand bison out of Yellowstone Park at the expense of agriculture and I believe he has directed Joe Maurier to oppose SB 144.

Please view the enclosed DVD to see how the Governor, as early as 2006, has continued to push his agenda of expanding the bison range into Montana. CBU is very much opposed to this action and we support passage of SB 144.

We see the Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission voted to complete an EIS on the newly purchased Spotted Dog property in regards to bison relocation on this property. We have grave concerns that this will result in introduction of Bison on to the Spotted Dog area. The consequences of this action will further put at risk the ranchers of Montana. The passage of SB 144 will put to rest the possibility of further expansion of Bison into Montana and we support the passage of SB 144.

Sincerely,

Kerry White
Executive Board

Citizens for Balanced Use

Montana State Legislature

2011 Session

Exhibit: 29

**This exhibit is a 3-dimensional
item.**

**DVD entitled; Brian Schweitzer
on Brucell Issue EQC 3/17/06**

**Therefore it cannot be scanned;
a photocopy of this exhibit has
been created to aid you in your
research.**

**The original exhibit is on file
and can be viewed at the
Montana Historical Society.**

**Montana Historical
Society Archives
225 N. Roberts
Helena MT 59620-1201
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Frian
Schweitzer

EXHIBIT NO. 10
DATE 1/25/06
FILE NO. ST 1111

Prison / Buffalo
Issue

FDC 3-17-06