

Dr. Roy Roath's Evaluation of Ranch Prod-

SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 2.10.11

IMPORTANT - CONCERNS HB 132

BILL NO.

HB 132

From: Vera-Beth <vera-beth@hotmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: soils and vegetation data for evolution of productivity-an email from Dr. Roath, CSU, prof.-

Date: January 27, 2011 11:23:25 AM MST

To: SENATE 50

THIS WILL GIVE YOU AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THE NUMBERS THE MT DOR IS CALCULATING FOR AUMS (NUMBER OF COWS) ON OUR RANCHES IS INACCURATE. THE DOR SCIENCE IS FLAWED ACCORDING TO DR. ROY ROATH, PROFESSOR OF RANGE SCIENCE @CSU. HE IS TOP IN THE USA IN HIS FIELD. SEE HIS MESSAGE BELOW.

ACTION: Let's put HB 132 on hold until adjustments and corrections can be made.

Thank you,

Vera-Beth Johnson-406-373-9967

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Roy Roath" <royr@warnercnr.colostate.edu>

Date: January 27, 2011 9:59:11 AM MST

To: "Miles Watts" <[redacted]@wattsandassociates.com>, "Ron Develin" <marcha@midrivers.com>

Cc: "Vera J" <vera-beth@hotmail.com>

Subject: soils and vegetation data for evolution of productivity

Vera: The basis of rangeland evaluation is using the climate-soils-vegetation relationship. Once the soils and the climate are identified then the vegetation communities should be relatively predictable. It appears that the Montana Department of Revenue (MDOR) has used a soils data base to identify polygons on each ranch in Montana. A given in this process is that the correct vegetation yields must be assigned to these polygons; or the process is fundamentally flawed. After having sampled more that 110 sample plots in Yellowstone County on the Johnson Ranch and neighboring ranches, I have found that the estimated/stated productivity MDOR by is greatly in excess of what is presently on the land and far beyond the potential productivity of the land represented in the soils polygons. The sum affect of this is that the overall land productivity inflated beyond reality. My information indicates that the stated soils polygon yields are, as much as double the measured capacity and generally nearly double, in every comparison. This clearly represents incorrect vegetation data used by the MDOR linked with the soils polygons.

The standard for range management planning is to determine the current capability and discount the plant yields of plants that are not consumed by livestock and land areas that are unusable to determine the correct capacity of the land. The MDOR capacity, based on the inflated productivity of individual polygons, is far in excess of the current yield; an additional gross error is done in stating the capacity of the land when many areas and/or portions of the vegetation are unusable.

Roy

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