

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

INTRODUCED BY B. HAWKS

BY REQUEST OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND IRRIGATION STANDING

COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA ENCOURAGING IMPROVED COMMUNICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS AFFECTED BY BISON CONTROL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE INTERAGENCY BISON MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, state and federal agencies have developed the Interagency Bison Management Plan to guide the management of bison and brucellosis in and around Yellowstone National Park; and

WHEREAS, the interagency plan occasionally requires the Montana Department of Livestock to enter private land as part of its efforts to control the spread of disease to livestock and humans; and

WHEREAS, Department of Livestock activities related to bison control have the potential to create conflict with private landowners; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Livestock's bison control activities would create less conflict if better coordination and communication existed between the department and private landowners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislature of the State of Montana encourages the Montana Department of Livestock to improve its level of communication and coordination with affected private landowners, including providing notification of bison control activities occurring on private land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature does not intend for the improved communication and coordination efforts to impede the Department of Livestock in carrying out its obligation to prevent and manage animal disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the members of the Board of Livestock, and the executive officer of the Board of Livestock.

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