

EXHIBIT 7

DATE 1-10-13

HB 115

Thank you for your time. My name is Wes Plummer, Owner/ Operator of Lower Valley Processing Co. INC.; a Meat Processing Establishment in Kalispell. I just want you committee members to know that we are in total support of House Bill 115. I just found out yesterday about this bill, I didn't realize that we were out of compliance. This must be approved or livestock producers just from our small business would lose out on approximately \$178,500.00, this is based on the elk we buy 300# ave. carcasses @ 4.25 and average of around 140 animals yearly. The trickle down would be terrible for all the local restaurants and Glacier Park's Eating Establishments that are selling MONTANA alternative LIVESTOCK. A WIN WIN for everyone. As a small business in Montana, at least in our industry, you have to be diversified to keep all of your employee's busy all year long. For us that means slaughtering and processing lots of alternative livestock like Emu, buffalo and elk.

As far as inspectors being qualified for rabbit slaughter and learning what to look for, I'm positive they will have training available. As far as disease goes and taking samples the state is very capable and they do this now. Just yesterday our onsite inspector had to save blood samples on 6 elk, 9 beef cows and 5 sows as this was part of our 48 animals which also included 10 sheep. We have to save all SRM's on all 30 month cattle for BSE reasons, all sheep products have to be disposed of separately for scrappies and elk have blood testing and brainstems removed by state Vets to check for various diseases, so checking on rabbits will be no different. Please support this bill for small business of Montana.

Wes Plummer.