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Proponent for HB 249

I am in favor of this bill because I live on a ranch in the Missouri Breaks with 17 miles of the Missouri River as our north boundary. Directly north of the Missouri River is Phillips County where they are trying to establish the "Great American Serengeti"! On dry years, we have trouble keeping cattle from crossing the river, and can usually ride horseback across it in many places, so, I am sure that it wouldn't deter free-roaming bison from crossing the usually slow flowing river throughout that area.

Our operation is a family operation and it is not uncommon to have at least 3 or 4 grandkids riding horseback to move cattle back and forth. I would hate to think what would happen if they, unexpectedly, came into contact with a stray bison bull! We already have multitudes of coyotes that travel in packs—(our son-in-law encountered one a few years back and his horse bolted and threw him off, stepped on him and broke his back). Of course, we also have mountain lions, elk, rattlesnakes, and an occasional wolf spotting, etc., that cause enough strife in moving and managing our cattle in that area without adding another problem.

The main problem we are concerned about is the Brucellosis affecting our cattle herd and all of the ramifications of that-- as we have already witnessed with the problems affecting cattle herds near Yellowstone Park.

Also, wild bison are very destructive animals and can have negative impacts on streams, crops, haystacks, fences, etc.

We personally know a rancher in Garfield County that has domestic bison, and she has told her neighbors that if a bison bull gets into their pasture, just kill it because it is too hard to contain and get it back.

So, for these reasons, I support the passage of HB 249.

Thank You.