

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1-31-13
HB 312

Dear members of the House Agriculture Committee,

Laurel Rod & Gun Club and our 400 plus family members would like to take the time to comment on HB 312.

At LRGC we feel strongly about our valued wildlife populations and many of our members are tied to livestock agriculture as well so we do get both sides of this story. HB 312 isn't the way Montana needs to go on these types of issues.

First of all, we are blessed to have the valued wildlife populations we have and we treasure those populations. This piece of legislation doesn't treat our wildlife as wildlife- it treats them as livestock. This is a backward approach at best and downright hostile to wildlife populations.

Those involved in livestock agriculture completely understand the testing of livestock for brucellosis is a necessary component of today's livestock industry. We see it all the time when female cattle are marketed; they always bring a premium price when they have been tested and tattooed as being Bangs vaccinated as opposed to not being tested/tattooed.

In Montana we can have both healthy wildlife populations and a viable livestock industry, many years of success have proven that. To continue the successes we enjoy today legislation like HB-312 isn't the way to go, it actually is counter productive.

In closing treat our valued wildlife populations like wildlife and treat cattle as livestock. Hunters pay for wildlife management through license fees and our public trustee FWP and livestock producers need to pay for livestock management. LRGC strongly opposes HB-312. Thank you for your time.

Respectively submitted

JW Westman