

EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 2-14-13  
HB 396



Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife  
P O Box 2243  
Missoula, MT 59806

## House Bill 396

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bill Mitchell, and I represent Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. We support this Bill.

We see a lot of similarities between what we have gone through with the wolf introduction and the possibility of bison relocation. The negative economic repercussions from bison relocation could far exceed that of the wolf. The ramifications of losing brucellosis free status would be devastating to livestock producers. A herd of bison in a winter wheat field on a muddy day could destroy a whole crop. The possible minor expansion of hunter opportunities has already been exceeded by the closure of their land to hunting by over 60 land owners in protest to the possibility of bison relocation.

For these reasons we feel the final say as to whether or not bison are to be relocated should lie with local elected officials representing the people of the areas that will be affected, not political appointees.