EXHIBIT 5
DATE 4/11/2013
SB 143

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

TO THE HOUSE AGRICUTURAL COMMITTEE:

RE; SB 143- AN ACT REVISING BISON MANAGEMENT LAWS; ESTABLISHING A HUNTING SEASON; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE LICENSES; PROHIBITING THE TRANSFER, RELOCATION, OR TRANSPLANTATION OF WILD BUFFALO;

POSITION: Montana Sportsmen's Alliance hereby goes on record **STRONGLY OPPOSING** SB 143 based on the following reasons:

- Disallows Wild Bison from entering the state. The national media will love this one.
- Allows for unlimited hunting from Nov. 15-April 30th. This could effectively eliminate every buffalo that enters Montana during the season dates.
- Turns Wild Bison management over to the Department of Livestock completely. Effectively converting bison from a wildlife species to a livestock species.
- Forbids the State of Montana from ever releasing Wild Bison anywhere in Montana except for the National Bison Range at Moiese, MT
- This bill will destroy the hard bi-partisan work accomplished by SB 212 in 2011.
- Violates every ethic and standards Montana has set in regards to wildlife management. Treats bison the way some states treat feral hogs. These are wildlife, not pests.
- Eliminates participation in the Interagency Bison Management Plan & working Group (section 1), something we have participated in for years. A lot of good is coming from that process toward solutions for brucellosis management.

Once again we would like to state our **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB 143.

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

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