EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1/29/2013
HB 198

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

TO THE HOUSE FWP COMMITTEE:

HB 198-AN ACT AUTHORIZING LATE SEASON DEER AND ELK HUNTING; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY;

POSITION: Montana Sportsmen's Alliance **STRONGLY OPPOSES** HB 198 because:

- Our hunting season is biologically designed to end early enough to prevent harassment of wildlife through the worst of time of the year and is still one of the longest in the West.
- Game damage and management hunts already on the books address problem populations selectively to minimize impacts to winter-stressed wildlife and allow hunts starting in August and running well beyond January 10th
- The Commission can already establish means of take during these seasons.
- Landowners appreciate a quiet Christmas season while Thanksgiving is the family hunting holiday.
- Montana already has one of the Country's longest big game firearm seasons where muzzleloaders are legal for 5 weeks. Special weapons seasons for primitive arms including muzzleloaders run into January in selected areas.

Once again we would like to state our **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB 198.

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

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