EXHIBIT 5
DATE 1/29/2013
HB 180

House Bill 180
January 29, 2013
Presented by Mike Volesky
House Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Mike Volesky, Deputy Director at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

The Department rises in reluctant opposition to HB 180. We understand the sentiment behind the bill, but it would remove the requirement for a nonresident to have previously held a Montana resident hunting or fishing license, or to have passed a hunter safety course in Montana. This simple change in eligibility would allow a nonresident born in Montana to qualify for a steep license discount even if they had never hunted in Montana to begin with. It would expand the number of licenses issued to nonresident relatives of Montana residents, and under the current situation where not all nonresident licenses are currently sold, result in an additional loss of revenue.

The total number of "Nonresident Native" licenses issued for 2012 were 1,171 deer licenses at $64, instead of $250, 1,001 elk licenses at $80 instead of $789, and 416 upland game bird licenses at $30 instead of $110. No season fishing licenses are issued, since the cost at 4 times the resident fee would be $72 and a nonresident season fishing license is currently $60. So the net effect is that these discounts to nonresident natives amounted to over $960,000 in 2012.

HB 180 is one of many bills that proposes to alter hunting and fishing license structure and costs, and each bill is being addressed independently. Over the years, in this piecemeal fashion, we have accumulated about 30 different classifications and discounts, from youth hunters, to aged hunters, to college students, to veterans, and to nonresident relatives. And they all have their place. But rather than simply adding to the list, with discounts that are all over the map, we believe it is necessary to make a more effective and equitable system. For example, over the interim, we hope it is possible to work with hunters and anglers on the list of classifications, and then decide on a half-price discount, or some set of appropriate discounts. But as it stands right now, we have confusing discounts that are inconsistent, difficult to administer, and cost the state millions in license revenue. We find it troubling to simply continue to add to that jumble.

Attached to my testimony is a spreadsheet listing the discounted or free licenses issued, and showing the resulting loss of revenue. Lines 17, 18, and 19 are the classifications affected by this bill.

Thank you.

Lost Revenue to FWP by discounted or free licenses 2012

	License Type	Other	Senior	Youth 12-14	Youth 15-17	Disabled	Total	Regular Price	Discounted	Difference	Loss in Rev to FWP
1	Conservation and implied fishing*		41,027	10,251		7,634	58,912	$26.00	$8.00	$18.00	$1,060,416.00
2	Conservation and fishing				5,955		5,955	$26.00	$16.00	$10.00	$59,550.00
3	Sportsman W/O bear (youth)				6,219		6,219	$70.00	$25.00	$45.00	$279,855.00
4	Free Youth Sportsman				4,976		4,976	$70.00	$0.00	$70.00	$348,320.00
5	Deer A			4,818		4,931	9,749	$16.00	$6.50	$9.50	$92,615.50
6	Deer A		17,274				17,274	$16.00	$10.00	$6.00	$103,644.00
7	Elk			3,604		4,186	7,790	$20.00	$8.00	$12.00	$93,480.00
8	Elk		15,052				15,052	$20.00	$8.00	$12.00	$180,624.00
9	Upland Bird				1,304		1,304	$7.50	$3.00	$4.50	$5,868.00
10	Implied Upland Bird*		41,027	10,251		7,634	58,912	$7.50	$0.00	$7.50	$441,840.00
11	Implied Waterfowl*		41,027	10,281	4,654	7,634	63,596	$5.00	$0.00	$5.00	$317,980.00
12	Sportsman W/O bear (senior)		1,298				1,298	$70.00	$55.00	$15.00	$19,470.00
13	Military Recognition Sportsman **	1,298					1,298	$70.00	$0.00	$70.00	$90,860.00
14	Landowner Trapper	126					126	$20.00	$1.00	$19.00	$2,394.00
15	NR College Student License	393					393	$939.00	$70.00	$869.00	$341,517.00
16	NR youth upland/migratory	126					126	$160.00	$35.00	$125.00	$15,750.00
17	NR Native-Deer A	1,171					1,171	$250.00	$64.00	$186.00	$217,806.00
18	NR Native-Elk	1,001					1,001	$789.00	$80.00	$709.00	$709,709.00
19	NR Native-Upland Bird	416					416	$110.00	$30.00	$80.00	$33,280.00
20	Military Combat Disabled Deer A	8					8	$250.00	$125.00	$125.00	$1,000.00
21	Military Combat Disabled Deer B	2					2	$75.00	$37.50	$37.50	$75.00
22	Military Combat Disabled Antelope	8					8	$200.00	$100.00	$100.00	$800.00
23	Military Combat Disabled Deer B Res	1					1	$10.00	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00
24	Military Combat Disabled Antelope Res	2					2	$14.00	$7.00	$7.00	$14.00
25	NR Youth Sponsored BG	388					388	$939.00	$474.50	$464.50	$180,226.00
26	Cooperators Big Game Combo	127					127	$939.00	$0.00	$939.00	$119,253.00
27	Exceptional Youth BG Combo	2					2	$939.00	$0.00	$939.00	$1,878.00
28	Cooperator Sportsman	665					665	$70.00	$0.00	$70.00	$46,550.00
29	Flathead Conservation	6,998					6,998	$8.00	$0.00	$8.00	$55,984.00
30	Flathead Joint Bird	733					733	$7.50	$0.00	$7.50	$5,497.50
31	Flathead Joint Fishing	3,491					3,491	$18.00	$0.00	$18.00	$62,838.00

These numbers are at full replacement cost and assume full participation of implied licensure.
The Military recognition license sales are reimbursed from the General Fund.
*Implied privileges are licenses issued with the sale of a Conservation License. (Fishing, Upland Game and Migratory Bird licenses)
** The money for this license is reimbursed from the State general fund

Total **$4,889,099.00**