EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2/21/2013
HB 512

2/18/2013

Dear Representative

My name is Alan Charles, and I am writing to you to express my opposition to HB 512.
I am writing to you, & testifying, on my own behalf, as a 59-year-old Montana hunter.

I am not one of those svelte, run-a-marathon, gym member aficianados. In fact, I am a short-legged, big-bellied potlicker from eastern Montana.

I do not own an ATV, and I park my truck at the gate or the trailhead.

I hunt by walking, and I hunt hard, and try to hunt well.

Over the past 13 years, I have killed 11 elk, all but one were cow elk, and all but one in walkin-only areas. Most of these elk were killed between 10:00am & 2:00pm, and none of those elk would have been there if vehicles were allowed to drive in the area.

All of those elk were retrieved either in pieces on my father's old packboard, a gamecart, a sled, or in pieces dragged out by me.

I appreciate Representative McCafferty's motives in carrying this bill on behalf of her constituents. And I acknowledge that there are fellow hunters who feel differently about this issue than I do.

But the fact of the matter is that there are some of us aging hunters who still believe that part of any responsible hunt is knowing that you have to be able to retrieve the game you bag. If you can't do it, you shouldn't shoot it.

And we have to be able to accept our limitations. Why should we expect to be able to take mechanical vehicles into a walk-in-only area, to the detriment of other hunters, other younger & other older hunters, who are still competent enough to hunt those areas, just because we are either unable or unwilling enough to retrieve our game on equal footing with other hunters.

FWP data clearly shows that elk move away from human activity much more readily & much farther than from large predator activity. I doubt deer respond much differently.

Again, while I respect the sponsor's motivations in bringing HB 512 forward, I ask that you consider a DO NOT PASS vote. Thank you. Alan Charles