

April 15, 2013

I am Edward (Mick) Cheff of the Cheff Guest Ranch & Outfitters, Inc. We have been a family business since 1932. I took it over from my Dad (Bud Cheff Sr.) and I have three sons and grandsons working with me now. We are finding it harder to book hunters for our type of hunts, as we pack in 28-30 miles horseback to our camps. We take eight to ten day trips. The hunter has to book a hunt early and get his vacation time off before he knows whether he will draw a license. Then the price of the Wilderness hunt and the license fee become a big ticket item. Most of the hunters we talk to think the Out-of-State hunting licenses are to high and that Montana does not want their business.

I would appreciate your support of SB380 as I feel it is a step in the right direction. It will make it possible for the hunting heritage to continue in the wilderness areas. It would also free up more access for the local sportsmen with the money generated from the Wilderness license fees. The local businesses in those communities would benefit as the money the Outfitters generate is put back into the local economy.

If the out-of-state hunting license keeps going up it will continue to make it harder to book hunters and to keep our family business viable to continue to operate.

Thank you for your time and consideration in support of SB380 .

Sincerely,

Mick Cheff\
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