

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Bill Harris. I represent H.D. 30. This includes all of Garfield and Petroleum Counties, and a large part of Fergus and McCone Counties. Today, I am presenting to you HB 515 HB 515 is (read bill title).

This bill is directly addressing a complete lack of transparency relating to injunctions, and/or restraining orders.

Under present law, a ghost entity may finance or financially influence an existing party, resulting in that party seeking an injunction or a restraining order. Again, under present law this ghost entity may be from out of state, out of country, or even from our own government-funded agencies. This information needs to be made available to parties being restrained or enjoined, and to the court.

A very good example of this lack of transparency is the list of plaintiffs in the consolidated wolf case in 2011. There were 14 different plaintiffs filling injunctions against the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The plaintiffs' goal was to obstruct the actions of both the federal and state legislature, and the direction of the federal courts.

[Read the list of Plaintiffs]

Plaintiffs in the Consolidate Wolf Case

- Defenders of Wildlife
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Sierra Club
- Humane Society of the United States
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
- Friends of the Clearwater
- Alliance for the Wild Rockies
- Oregon Wild
- Cascadia Wildlands
- Western Watersheds Project
- Wildlands Network
- Hells Canyon Preservation Council
- Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Questions:

- 1) Who are they?
- 2) What are their interests?
- 3) Who is harmed from this action? And how?
- 4) Who are the ghost investors?
- 5) What are their interests?
- 6) If they are from out of state or out of country, what are their interests?
- 7) If they are from a taxpayer funded agency, what are their interests?
- 8) In reference to question 6 and 7, are their intentions and interests constitutionally legal and are they in accordance with State Statutes?

In this case, the lack of transparency only protects ghost funding of potentially illegal and unethical activities by shadow entities hiding behind organized groups searching for a profitable cause.