EXHIBIT 1
DATE 4-3-2013
~~HB~~ SB 237

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

To the House Natural Resources Committee:

RE; SB-237-AN ACT REQUIRING APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS FOR CERTAIN LAND PURCHASES; TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, LAND PURCHASES MAY NOT RESULT IN A NET GAIN IN LAND OWNERSHIP

POSITION: Montana Sportsmen's Alliance hereby goes on record **ADAMANTLY OPPOSING** this bill based on the following reasons:

- There are landowners who want to sell their properties to FWP to provide the people of Montana long term recreational opportunities and to protect the property from development.
- Publicly owned lands provide a very positive economic impact for local communities and the state.
- With 2.9 million acres of public land presently landlocked by private lands, additional FWP lands are needed for Montana's growing population.
- This bill would prohibit landowners from selling their properties to the buyer of their choice thereby violating those landowner's private property rights.
- FWP lands are purchased with hunter's dollars, not tax dollars. Hunters, thru our trustee FWP, has the right to purchase property in Montana just like any other person or entity.
- Attached is a list of properties that have been purchased by FWP over the years that benefit all the people of Montana, not just hunters/anglers, even though hunters/anglers have paid the bill.

Once again we would like to state our **OPPOSITION** for SB 237

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

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