



Chairman Brenden and Members of the Committee-

My name is Jerry Davis and as a board member of the Montana Bowhunters Association I represent their stance in support of SB 123. I appreciate the opportunity to give MBA's reasons for supporting this bill.

Montanan's have a reputation of taking care of those in need. To that end Montana's hunters have for years provided wild game to local food banks. But the Montana Department of Health requires that donated wild game be processed by a certified meat processor. With the economic downturn many food banks around the state have been faced with budgetary constraints. These constraints have prohibited many food banks from accepting donated wild game without that game first being processed. This leaves the total cost of processing of donated wild game to the hunter who wishes to donate that wild game. Wild game processing costs can be as high as \$100, maybe more.

Though there are no statistics it can be assumed that if there were a fund to help defray the cost of processing donated wild game more hunters would donate wild game. With more hunters donating wild game, food banks would be better able to provide adequate meat rations to those in need. Giving sportsman the option to donate a minimum of one dollar to a fund to help defray the cost of donated wild game processing follows my original premise, that Montanan's have a reputation of taking care of those in need. I am sure if SB 123 is passed most sportsmen will donate at least a dollar to that fund, as many of us as Montanans have been in need ourselves.

Please vote yes for SB 123.

Thank you.