

SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 13
DATE 2-12-13
BILL NO. SB 249

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

To the Senate Fish & Game Committee:

RE: SB-249 Revise laws related to wildlife management

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

- Local Governments often do not have the education or experience necessary to make scientific decisions on state wildlife issues.
- In Montana it has been long established that wildlife are both an asset and a liability to property owners.
- Landowner tolerance should not dictate wildlife management policies. Landowners need to be consulted as do sportsmen but the decision should be made by wildlife professionals.
- The presence of wildlife provides substantial economic benefits to local communities and should be enhanced not diminished.
- We feel that socially based wildlife management will have a negative impact on our wildlife populations and violates the public Trust Doctrine and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.
- This bill violates the doctrine that wildlife belong to all the people of the State and that the State is the trustee for the people of the State.

Once again we would like to state our **OPPOSITION** for SB 249

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

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