

Laurel Rod & Gun Club

RE: SB-380 Providing for nonresident hunting licenses in wilderness

Laurel Rod & Gun Club hereby goes on record OPPOSING this bill based on the following reasons:

- Montana already gives out more NR tags than surrounding states.
- Non-resident tag sales haven't sold out in years. There is a surplus now, so we see no need to issue more.
- Outfitter endorsed changes to non-resident licensing has resulted in surplus licenses being unsold and a loss of revenue.
- Game populations in Wilderness areas are mostly at or below objectives and long-term averages. There's no biological reason to add more hunters in those areas.
- Social tolerance of non-resident sportsman, by resident hunters, would be eroded.
- The word "Intent" on line 3 means the tag holders could use the license anywhere in the state.
- I-161 provided clear evidence that Montanans did not support guaranteed non-resident licenses of any kind.
- The addition of 1500 licenses would provide that many more to outfitters in E. Montana where the public has said very clearly, that is not an acceptable answer.
- Non-resident hunters in wilderness hunts are only interested in harvest of antlered critters. They do not participate in herd management or herd health objectives.
- There is a supposed cap on NR hunters of 17000. FWP records show there is actually so many of these add on licenses that the true figure is 28,600.

Once again we would like to state our OPPOSITION for HB-380

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laurel Rod & Gun Club
Laurel, MT

