



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jerry Davis. I represent the Montana Bowhunters Association.

MBA supports HB 401.

MBA applauds Representative Welborn in his efforts to make applying for moose, sheep, and goat license more affordable to all hunters while at the same time increasing funding for the management of Montana's wildlife resource.

The present system requires a resident applicant to submit \$130 to be eligible for the drawing of each species. That equates to \$392 if a resident applicant wishes to apply for all three species including a nonrefundable \$2 for preference points per application.

A nonresident applicant must submit \$755 to be eligible for the drawing of each species, a total of \$2265 for all three species and another nonrefundable \$20 for preference points per application.

Though all but the preference points are refunded back to applicants if they are not drawn it is a hardship for many households to come up with those funds, especially when applications must be submitted so close to tax season.

With HB 401 a resident applicant would only have to submit \$12 for each species which include \$2 for preference points for each species.

With HB 401 a nonresident applicant would only have to submit \$170 for each species including \$20 for preference points for each species.

In turn that application fee would not be refunded, and the applicant would only have to pay the full price of the license if the applicant were successful in being drawn.

Those nonrefundable application fees have the potential to increase FWP revenues by more than \$1,000,000. HB 401 will preclude FWP administrative costs associated with refunding application fees. Subsequently these revenues will help with the management of Montana's wildlife resource at a time when funding is getting tight.

We ask that you vote "Do Pass" for HB 401.