

House Bill 609
April 9, 2013
Presented by Paul Sihler
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record, my name is Paul Sihler, Field Services Division Administrator for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here today on behalf of the Director to provide information on House Bill 609.

FWP supports the concept and need for the study proposed by HB 609, and in announcing his recent appointment of new FWP Commissioners, Governor Bullock tasked FWP and the new Commission with addressing these same issues proposed by HB 609 for an EQC study.

The Department will be initiating a collaborative process this spring that brings hunters, anglers, outfitters, license dealers, legislators and other interests with a direct stake in these issues to the table to develop proposals they can all agree upon to bring to the Administration and Legislature. If the Legislature enacts HB 609, then the Department will seek every opportunity to coordinate its process with the EQC.

The issues Representative Connell raises in this study resolution are legitimate and need to be addressed for the future of fish and wildlife management in Montana. Mr. Chairman, I'm happy to respond to any questions.