SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 7
DATE 4-9-13
BILL NO. HB 298

Support for HB 298

My name is Kody Peterson, I am a resident, farmer, rancher, construction worker, small business owner, sportsman and friend to many. I support HB 298. Of all the aspects in my life, honesty and communication are the most important factors. I believe that these should be the first on the list of ANY government agency. Lately, I have not seen much of either. It is absolutely critical to restore honesty, communication and integrity.

There has been a recent incident and one that is currently brewing that has my blood boiling. The acquisition of the Milk River Ranch was crammed down our throats, even after tremendous opposition. The hearing that I attended in Havre on that acquisition proved that the democratic process does not exist when it is most needed. The expedited nature of that purchase leaves many of us wondering if there are some ulterior motives. The other is the termination of grazing leases on WMA's. The supposed reasoning is that grazing is hurting the bird habitat; I haven't seen any scientific evidence yet. I am still waiting. I have not heard of any communication between the lessee and DFWP other than the lessee was told at the last minute that his lease would not be renewed. Quite a blow to the gut don't you think?

I don't want to just be part of pointing out a problem, I would like to help find a solution. So as things progress I will do as much as I can to help facilitate communications between DFWP and the landowner/lessees of Montana. It is going to be difficult to recover the trust of the landowners and lessees but it has to start with honesty and communication.

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