

(H) Federal Relations, Energy, Telecommunications
Honorable Mike Lang, Chairman
Tom Steenberg, Vice-Chairman
Daniel Zolnikov, Vice-Chairman
64th Montana State Legislature
Capital Building - Helena, Montana

March 16, 2015

RE: Senate Bill 261; Montana Sage Grouse Stewardship Act

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes ("CSKT") support the Montana Sage Grouse Stewardship Act. The CSKT endorses this effort to maintain and support our Tribes' and State's native species. The preservation and restoration of such an important and iconic Montana bird, such as the greater sage grouse, cannot be overstated.

Developing conservation measures to maintain, restore, expand, and enhance sage grouse habitats will simply help with population decline and allow for other activities to occur.

Under the CSKT hunting laws, important species like the sharp tail grouse and sage grouse are protected from hunting unless provided for under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. Sage grouse are found within our aboriginal territory and have great historical and cultural significance to the CSKT.

We ask that you support SB 261 with a yes vote. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Shane Morigeau

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